



حکایات الامم

No 63,768

THURSDAY JULY 26 1990

Overseas edition

30p

ADRIAN BROOKS

Package 'leans to cautious side'

## King reduces armed forces by 18 per cent

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE THREE armed services are to be cut by 18 per cent and two divisions of the British Army of the Rhine withdrawn in the next five years as part of the long-awaited "options for change" defence review.

Tom King, the defence secretary, refused to put a price on the peace dividend when pressed by the Opposition after he had detailed the proposed cuts in Commons statement yesterday. But he promised substantial savings towards the end of the five years.

Under the proposals, approved by cabinet earlier in the day, the army will be cut by 40,000, the RAF by 14,000 and the Royal Navy by 3,000. Civilian numbers will also be cut by 21,000.

In Germany, two of the four RAF bases will be closed and the number of squadrons will be reduced from fifteen to nine. The three army divisions in Germany, supplemented by another based in Britain, will be cut to two, with one kept at home but committed to the continent.

Mr King acknowledged at a press conference in the defence ministry that the overall package he had produced after a six-month internal review leaned towards the cautious side. He called the proposals sensible, but insisted that some elements were radical. He cited the halving of army personnel based in West Germany to about 25,000, the RAF base closures there, and a

planned reduction in the submarine fleet from 27 to 16, a move which took the navy by surprise yesterday.

While not as radical as some inside the defence ministry had wanted, the proposed cuts were welcomed by Martin O'Neil, the Labour defence spokesman, as the first step towards changing Britain's armed services in the light of the reduced threat from the Warsaw Pact.

He said it was essential that the financial implications of the cuts should be revealed to the Commons as soon as possible. He also wanted a full debate when Parliament returned from the summer recess.

Explaining why the proposals were "sensible" and balanced, he said: "There clearly are opportunities but also risks in Europe; and elsewhere some worrying trends - not least the proliferation of sophisticated weapons systems."

Now that the basic details of the changes have been announced, the three services face at least six months' work of detailed study before a white paper can be put before the Commons, probably next spring.

Mr King declined to say when the personnel cuts would begin, but sources from all three services did not expect withdrawals from Germany to start for about a year.

Mr King gave reassurance that although some redundancies would probably be necessary, they would not be widespread. Much of the reduction could be dealt with through natural wastage and he planned to ease back on army recruiting, which he expected to have a considerable impact on manpower levels.

Another important proposal is that the Buccaneer maritime aircraft force will be phased out, to be replaced by dual-capable Tornados deployed from Germany and equipped with Sea Eagle missiles for an anti-ship role. There will also be a 15 per cent reduction in the number of Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. This will mean a cut of about five of the aircraft.

Mr King said: "We believe that the new force structures we envisage can give us strong and reliable defences, in changing circumstances, and at an affordable cost."

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Commons statement, page 5  
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New generation: Dr George Carey with his daughters Rachel, left, and Lizzie, and his grandson, David, at Lambeth Palace yesterday

### BAe to test EC's Rover ruling

By STEPHEN LEATHER

BRITISH Aerospace is refusing to accept the decision by the European Commission that it should be forced to repay the hidden subsidies it was given when the Rover car and Land-Rover businesses were privatised. Yesterday, BAe said it had decided to take its case to the European Court of Justice to test the legality of the decision.

The British government has already accepted the EC verdict, though it disputed the sums involved, arguing that the £33.4 million calculated as the interest saving to the company was only £2.2 million when the benefit was assessed net of tax.

Nicholas Ridley, the former trade and industry secretary, said he accepted in principle the Commission's ruling requiring BAe to repay to the government the £9.5 million contribution towards its costs in buying out minority shareholders, and the grant of £1.5 million on its acquisition costs for Rover Group two years ago.

But Mr Ridley told the Commons last month that the government was prepared to support BAe in arguments over the true benefit it derived from being allowed to defer payment of the £150 million paid for Rover. He said the arguments could cut the repayment by £11.4 million.

BAe issued a statement last night saying that it had carried out a "careful review" of the Commission's decision and had taken independent professional advice. Spokesman Gerry Wooding said that the decision to test the case before the European Court of Justice was taken to protect shareholders' interests.

"The company has no alternative but to exercise its right to test before the European Court of Justice the legality of that part of the Commission's decision relating to the amount required to be recovered from British Aerospace," he said.

Mr Wooding said that it was too early to say what form BAe's arguments would take. "It would be inappropriate to

Continued on page 22, col 5

### Iraq-Kuwait talks ease Middle East tensions

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, CAIRO, AND JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO, KUWAIT

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt said last night that envoys from Iraq and Kuwait would meet at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia at the weekend to try to defuse the tension between the two Gulf neighbours.

Kuwait's crown prince, meanwhile, had earlier announced that the tiny Gulf state was prepared for direct talks with Iraq on their dispute over territorial claims and oil production. In a surprise move, Esso yesterday increased petrol prices by 4p a gallon in Britain in anticipation of today's Opec meeting in Geneva.

As intense diplomatic efforts to contain the threat of war between Iraq and Kuwait continued, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the emirate's crown prince and prime minister, went some way to meeting demands made by Iraq as conditions for not resorting to military force.

His offer was made as tension in the strategic region remained at its most dangerous level since the end of the Gulf war 23 months ago, with some 30,000 Iraqi combat troops massed along a hundred miles of the desert.

The Kuwaiti government was yesterday struggling to maintain an air of normality and imposed a total blackout on the news about the Iraqi

border with Kuwait, supported by at least 200 Soviet-built tanks.

"Everyone knows that Kuwait wanted and still wants in all sincerity and enthusiasm to meet our brothers in Iraq to reach an understanding in a brotherly atmosphere on a formula which will serve the interest of the two brotherly nations," the sheikh said in a speech distributed by the official Kuwait news agency, adding: "I am optimistic... that the efforts of the (mediating) brothers will produce a formula and the good ties between Kuwait and Iraq will return."

According to diplomatic sources, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who has so far demonstrated little appetite for compromise, agreed to refrain from any attack providing the Kuwaitis met for direct talks and also agreed to pay reparations of \$2.4 billion (£1.3 billion) for oil Iraq insists was extracted from wells dug on its territory.

The Kuwaiti government was yesterday struggling to maintain an air of normality and imposed a total blackout on the news about the Iraqi

'Dazed' Carey to succeed Runcie

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Rt Rev George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, is to succeed Dr Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury, it was announced yesterday.

Dr Carey, aged 54, who said he was "dazed and unworthy", is by far the youngest Archbishop of Canterbury in recent history. The announcement, three months earlier than expected, took the Church of England by surprise. Although it was not unexpected that the next archbishop would come from the church's evangelical wing, Dr Carey was not the prime candidate.

He is the son of a hospital porter, a true Cockney born within the sound of Bow bells who left school at 15. His name had hardly figured in previous speculation, which put the Most Rev John Habgood, Archbishop of York, and the Rt Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, as the leading contenders.

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Can Opec survive? page 10  
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Lambeth leapfrog, page 10  
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### INSIDE Overhaul for police urged

MPs yesterday called for a radical overhaul of Britain's policing system to replace the "Heath Robinson" character of the present structure. The Commons home affairs select committee said it represented generations of piecemeal solutions. Sir John Wheeler, chairman, spoke of the glaring deficiencies of a system that consumes over £4 billion of public funds annually. Page 3

### Miners' deal

The International Miners Organisation is to allow its finances to be examined as part of a deal aimed at preventing Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, facing court action by his own union for the recovery of Russian money. Page 2

### No magic circle

Members of a project investigating circles and patterns appearing on corn fields in southern England were enraged yesterday after finding markings in an area close to almost £1 million of observation equipment were a man-made hoax. Page 3

### Arms deadline

President Gorbachev yesterday issued a presidential decree instructing all unauthorized units on Soviet territory to disband within fifteen days and surrender weapons. Page 7

### Diamond sales

The Swiss arm of South Africa's De Beers diamond group has signed a five year exclusive contract worth \$5 billion with the Soviet Union to market rough diamonds. Page 23

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### British diplomats cut off in Liberia attack

By ANDREW MCLEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE British ambassador in Liberia has taken refuge with the Americans after being cut off by fighting in Monrovia. Michael Gorn and two other British diplomats were in the outskirts of the city checking that British residents were safe when rebel forces attacked the industrial area.

As it was too dangerous to return to the embassy they stayed at a building owned by the American authorities but not the US embassy. Whitehall sources said they had been

Photograph, page 8



The calf and the pottery shrine in which it was encased

golden calf in the Bible destroyed by Moses.

In Exodus 32, Moses comes down from Mount Sinai to discover that his Israelites, bored in his absence, have

made a molten calf from their women's jewellery. Angered by the blasphemy "he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain", the Old Tes-

tan says. He then took the calf and threw it into the fire and ground the remains to a powder.

Calves were worshipped in Egypt as well as in ancient Canaan, the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan river in what is now Israel.

"The Hebrews came out of the Canaanite milieu," Dr Stager said. "This figurine shows the calf was a religious object in the area centuries before Moses."

The newly-found calf, dated from pottery shards found with it, would have been worshipped prior to 1550 BC, when the area was conquered by the Egyptians. The account of Moses is believed to have

occurred between 1,200 BC and 1,500 BC.

The tiny figure is not actually made of gold, Dr Stager said. The body is of bronze, but burnishing marks show it was polished to a high sheen to resemble gold, the legs and head are of silver, fastened with metal pegs. The horns and tail are of copper wire.

It was found about one month ago inside a shattered pottery vessel that probably served as its display case in a pagan temple near the gate to the ancient port of Ashkelon.

"We are not really sure what the golden calf signifies, whether this size was usual or not and how it was actually worshipped," Dr Stager said.

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### The golden calf emerges from its stable

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

AN AMERICAN archaeological team digging in ancient Canaanite ruins south of Tel Aviv has unearthed a "golden calf", the worship of which angered God and the holy men of the Old Testament.

The find was announced by Dr Laurence Stager, a Harvard university professor involved in the dig for the past six years. He said the calf figurine, which stands about four-and-a-half inches high and long, was the first of its kind to be discovered.

He estimated that the calf was made about 1,550 BC and that it predated the famous

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# 'Dazed' archbishop steels himself for challenges to come

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

FOR a man who admitted to being "dazed and unworthy" after his nomination as the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Rev Dr George Carey fielded questions on homosexuals, women priests, the poll tax and the environment with admirable equanimity.

Dr Carey, who a few days ago was planning nothing more important than his summer holiday and who admitted to being an outsider in the race to Canterbury, was almost as bemused as the journalists invited to question him at Lambeth Palace after his nomination was announced yesterday, three months earlier than expected.

Flanked by his wife Eileen and his four children, the Bishop of Bath and Wells emphasised the importance of

the environment, ecumenism and social issues. Then, with impeccable modesty, he corrected a reporter who said he had been a bishop for three years. "I have only been bishop for two and a half years, and that was part of the surprise of my appointment. I have never shirked a responsibility or a challenge. I do not fear it, although obviously one is full of apprehension."

The prospective archbishop is so junior that he does not even hold one of 26 seats accorded to bishops in the House of Lords, although when he takes up his appointment he will automatically be given a place.

Dr Carey, like the bookmakers who ranked him as a 20-1 outsider until yesterday morning, did not expect to be chosen. "I am quite surprised.

## East end boy who grew up to be a fervent evangelist

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND RUTH GLEDHILL

GEORGE Carey, aged 54, was born within the sound of Bow Bells in London's east end, the son of a hospital porter. He was baptised as a baby, but was not a regular churchgoer until attracted into his local Christian community as a teenager.

Although he qualified to attend a grammar school, he completed his secondary education at Bifrons Secondary Modern School in Barking and left school at 15.

Dr Carey said yesterday he did not regret his roots. "I was unchurched for many years. It was only the warmth of the local community that pulled me into the openness of the Christian church and its traditions. I do not see that background as being a problem to me at all. I look back and I thank God for it. I see that as being one of the creative elements of my ministry."

Those who have known Dr Carey during his career speak of him affectionately as an inspirational and passionate evangelist with considerable diplomatic skills. The Cockney tones of his youth may have refined during his travels around the provinces but he has not lost sight of his working-class origins.

Quick to remove a tie and more natural out of his Sunday best, he is described by one former parishioner as "really quite shabby. He never wasted much time on looking smart". In his lecturing, he was "as happy with a bric-a-brac as with a nuclear physicist. We had all sorts and George could mix with any of them," a college colleague remembers.

Dr Carey was first employed as an office boy with the London Electricity Board, until beginning his National Service at 18 in the RAF. He returned to the LEB but had already decided to seek ordination and studied to gain a place at King's College London and the London College of Divinity and served his first curacy for four years at St Mary's, Islington.

A warm personality and ability to mix easily in any social environment stand out in the memories of those who have worked with him. Above all, he is described repeatedly as a "unifying influence", whether encouraging parishes

to rally round a church modernisation or in ecumenism. From 1975 to 1982 he was vicar of St Nicholas Church, Durham, where his parishioners recall how he encouraged colleagues to spend Christmas eve in a cardboard box in Durham market square.

While he is much admired as affable, hospitable and good company, he will not baulk at confrontation. "He will never go for the lowest common denominator. He has the breadth of vision to get out of the rut of ecclesiastical allegiance," the Rev John Field, a former colleague at St John's College, Nottingham, where he was lecturer from 1970-5, says.

In 1982 Dr Carey was appointed principal of Trinity College, Bristol, and during his five years at Bristol served as an elected member of the General Synod. He has been fervent in his ecumenical work. During his period as Bishop of Bath and Wells, from 1987 to date, he has combined both his pastoral and teaching experience by forming a series of teaching missions in the diocese.

His wife, Eileen, aged 51, is a nurse and works part-time in a nursing home. She said: "I have always been in partnership in ministry with my husband." They have four children: Rachel, aged 27, a housewife and mother; Mark, aged 25, a social worker; Andrew, aged 24, features editor of the *Church of England Newspaper*; and Liz, aged 18, a trainee nurse. Dr Carey in his spare time watches football and used to go jogging until he gave it up two years ago. He said yesterday: "I walk my dog, listen to music, relax with my wife." He has been a supporter of Arsenal Football Club for many years.

• Ladbrokes' clients across the south of England placed a total of £2,000 on Dr Carey, the 20-1 outsider, in the first few minutes of business yesterday. Payment on winning bets was suspended while the late flutter was investigated, but the chain later agreed to pay out on all bets. William Hill, which took £20,000 in bets since opening the book in March, lost about £8,000, much of it on the £280 worth of bets placed on him yesterday.

Clifford Longley, page 10

**How the primate was chosen**

DR CAREY was nominated as the next Archbishop after the Crown Appointments Commission submitted two names to the prime minister (Ruth Gledhill writes).

One of his strongest supporters is believed to be Ruth Etchells, a member of the commission since 1987, a theologian and a former principal of St Joseph's College, Durham. Dr Carey ministered to many of her students while a vicar in the city. The two

bishops elected to the commission were the Rt Rev John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury and the Rt Rev Ronald Bowby, Bishop of Southwark.

The other voting members of the commission were: Viscount Caldecote, chairman; Canon Peter Boult, Canon Michael O'Connor, Canon Michael Clark, Sir Timothy Hoare, the Rt Rev David Smith, Canon Jesse Sage, David Kemp and Barbara Leeming. The com-

mission sat in secret and its members cannot comment on its proceedings.

Nominations were considered until a shortlist probably of three or four was agreed. After further discussion, a secret ballot would have selected two names, with a final vote to see if there was a two-thirds majority. Margaret Thatcher could choose either, whether or not a preference was expressed, to submit to the Queen for approval.

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

EXPRESSIONS of anger and grief in Northern Ireland yesterday held a special poignancy as the province faced up to the first murder of a nun in the past 21 years of troubles.

As the police made the almost routine announcement that two men were being questioned about a serious crime in the Armagh area after the IRA landmine explosion that killed Sister Catherine Dunne and three policemen on Tuesday, local news programmes spoke of their horror.

In the past year there has been nothing so moving as the voice of a close friend of Sister Dunne who spoke to RTE radio about the woman who had attended her

wedding and was devoted to the children she cared for in her work.

"I am so sad — she was just one great person. I feel angry that they did this to her. She helped so many people and the fact that they (the IRA) saw her coming and pressed the button ..." She said Sister Dunne had a great ability to communicate with the children she cared for at St Joseph's training school, Middletown, near Armagh.

"She was a very loving, giving person, always there with a hug when they needed it and equally, always just there when I needed her."

Sister Dunne's death makes a mockery of the IRA's stated policy of doing all in its power to avoid so-called civilian casualties. A brief survey of the land around the site of

the explosion, on the Killylea road two miles from Armagh, shows that the seven-man gang that detonated the mine from a commandeered house would have seen her car approaching.

Sister Dunne, who was 37, died on the way to a hospital. Kathy McCann, aged 25, a social worker to whom she was giving a lift, was in a stable condition in hospital in Craigavon with injuries to her head and shoulder. She had not been told of the four deaths. The families of the three dead policemen were visited by Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC, and his wife yesterday. William Hanson, aged 37, who was married with four children, is to be buried today, as will Joshua Willis, aged 35, also married, with two children. David

Sterritt, who was 34 and single, is to be buried tomorrow.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, put out a statement yesterday by Martin McGuinness, the Londonderry-based member of the party's national executive. It said Sinn Fein deeply regretted all deaths resulting from the "conflict", whether they be those of active participants ... or innocent victims, like Sister Catherine Dunne".

The statement went on: "Our sorrow at these deaths is genuine and profound but will be abused by our political opponents who will cynically exploit these events for their own political purposes." The North Armagh Provisionals said in a statement to the Press Association that the killing of Sister Dunne was caused by fluke circumstances.

Dr Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic bishop of Down and Connor, described the bombing as an appallingly ruthless and irresponsible act.

Dr Daly, who met Sister Dunne during a church service in Ballymena last Sunday, said she was a popular and vivacious woman. He said that the men who killed her and the police should ask themselves where their campaign was leading them. "They should ask themselves, 'Is this the campaign they thought they were engaged upon when they got involved, or is it in any way advancing the aims which they espouse?'"

Dr Daly added that the IRA should know that its campaign was "stuck without hope" of any possible advancement towards its stated aims.

## Paris deal allows NUM to examine finances

By TIM JONES  
EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE International Miners' Organisation is to allow its finances to be examined as part of a deal aimed at preventing Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, facing court action by his own union for the recovery of £1.4 million of Russian money.

Armed with the agreement, lawyers representing the National Union of Mineworkers will ask the High Court today to suspend action against Mr Scargill and three others while accountants examine the books of the Paris-based organisation. If the peace formula, arrived at after talks in Paris, succeeds, it will save the union from the embarrassment of putting its president in the dock to defend alleged breaches of trust actions.

Gordon Butler, one of four NUM committee members trying to recover the money said yesterday: "There will be further meetings to examine the books ... if there are any funds belonging to the NUM they will come back."

In his report of the stewardship of the NUM under Mr Scargill and Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, Gavin Lightman, QC, says that money collected by Soviet and Eastern Bloc miners should have gone to the union, not to fund controlled by the IMO.

It became clear yesterday that the Paris talks were complicated by the uncompromising attitude of Alan Simon, the IMO general secretary. Both sides are hoping that today's High Court application will enable negotiations leading to at least some of the money, in a Dutch bank account, being transferred to the NUM.

After the negotiations, George Rees, another member of the committee, said: "It would be better and far less costly if we could resolve this out of court." That prospect will depend to some extent on whether Mr Simon will drop his insistence that the donations were not meant specifically to relieve hardship among striking British miners.

## Outcome of tax cap for High Court

One of Britain's largest teaching unions is to challenge a Labour authority in the High Court over a decision to axe 22 teaching jobs as part of spending cuts introduced after the council's poll tax was capped (Tom Giles writes).

The statistics also showed a rapid rise in the work of the county courts over the past decade. The number of cases that came before county court judges last year was nearly double the level for 1983 and more than 78 per cent higher than ten years ago.

Ninety per cent of the cases involved claims for money, and about 60 per cent of cases started were for amounts of less than £500, and could therefore have been dealt with by the small claims arbitration procedure.

A statement from the Central Statistical Office said the government had no intention of accepting the recommendations of a working party that included Sir Claus Moser, its former director.

The working party, set up by the Royal Statistical Society in response to concern about the reliability of official figures, said the service must be protected from interference by ministers. It called for the creation of a centralised service and said legislation would be needed to safeguard the autonomy and constitutional position of official figures.

## Boys separated

A boy aged 14 has been ordered to stay away from a boy of 12 during the summer holidays after admitting an assault on the younger child in May. Liverpool County Court was told there had been a background of incidents between the two, both in and out of schooltime. The younger boy's application for an injunction preventing the other from approaching him was adjourned.

## Ruling reserved

An appeal hearing by a suspected IRA bomber against extradition to Britain concluded at the High Court in Dublin after just two days amid intense legal argument. Desmond Ellis, aged 37, from Finglas in Dublin, is wanted in Britain on two warrants alleging possession of explosives and conspiracy to cause explosions in Britain between 1981 and 1983. Judgment was reserved until next Tuesday.

**CORRECTION**  
A photograph yesterday of the Emir of Kuwait incorrectly described him as Sheikh Saad al-Sabah. The emir is Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah.



From the collection that celebrated Yves Saint Laurent's personal re-appearance in Paris: a suede belting-sleeved three-quarter length coat (left) and a flight of fancy in orange, red and yellow pheasant feathers.

## Saint Laurent and his pure line are back

From LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR, IN PARIS

THE couture collection shown by Yves Saint Laurent in Paris yesterday was not, in fact, a vintage one. It rates a place in fashion's history, however, not just for the innovative circular cut that he has sliced into a new silhouette, but because the man himself was definitely back.

Throughout the lengthy but low-key show his presence could be sensed, in the dramatic or a new pochoir, or the wide cut of a sleeve carved deep into the body of his new chemise dress. His soft new line was followed through relentlessly: from the earlier violet wool, or chestnut suede cocoon coats for day, to

the puffed skirt which is a development of the pouf that St Laurent first created when at Dior in 1958.

Flying chiffon one-shouldered over-dresses, with the same loose flowing sleeves, fluttered and shadowed across the sheaths of matching chiffon underneath, suspended from the finest of shoestring straps.

When Saint Laurent, in sand silk suit and striped shirt and tie, appeared through the backdrop of sunflowers to walk down the long catwalk at the end of his show, his devoted friends Catherine Deneuve, Paloma Picasso and Zizi

Jeanmaire, and New York's society clients led by Ivana Trump rose in their feet and blew him the kisses that officially welcomed him back to his role as the leader of Paris fashion.

It was an appearance that he had been unable to make in March, when he was too ill to appear at his ready-to-wear show. A bulletin announced that he was in hospital suffering from "overwhelming nervous exhaustion".

Backstage after the show, faced with a battery of television cameras and well-wishers, he kept repeating: "The purity of the line is what matters."

## Enquiry to test reading in schools

By TOM GILES

THE government is to investigate claims that reading standards have fallen among seven-year-olds. John MacGregor announced yesterday.

In an answer to a parliamentary question, the education secretary said that he would instruct Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools to focus on the teaching of reading in their autumn reports on primary school standards. He would also ask the Schools Examinations and Assessment Council to report on existing evidence among local education authorities.

The investigation comes amid growing concern over children's reading standards. A confidential report, published last month by *The Times Educational Supplement*, said that half of 347,000 seven-year-olds in nine local authorities were considered extremely poor readers.

The tests, conducted by educational psychologists, found that children's reading scores had fallen overall by 3.23 per cent in the past five years, indicating a marked decline. The psychologists said that a shift of even 0.5 per cent in a population of 3,000 children was significant. Mr MacGregor said yesterday that he was greatly concerned at the suggestion that reading standards were falling.

The minister also outlined the basis of new assessment arrangements for seven-year-olds in the national curriculum's core subjects of English, mathematics and science. The new measures which will be introduced from next year, make up the first key stage of standard attainment targets.

Children are to be tested more for their ability to use and understand language than on their handwriting or spelling skills, with scores weighted in favour of sentence construction and punctuation.

## Judicial statistics show divorce rate on increase

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RISING divorce rates and a greater percentage of acquittals in the crown court during 1989 are shown in the latest judicial statistics published yesterday.

There were 184,610 petitions for divorce last year, three-quarters of which were issued on behalf of wives, making the total the highest for five years. The higher figure in 1985 reflected the first full year of changes in divorce proceedings; the number of years of marriage after which a petition could be filed was reduced from three to one.

The statistics showed an increased percentage of defendants were acquitted in the crown court during 1989, particularly in London. The percentage of defendants acquitted in England and Wales rose from 13 per cent to 15 per cent (including both those submitted

to the court last year compared with 604 and 2,925 in 1988).

The figures also show that although the number of "clean-break" lump sum orders between divorcing spouses has increased steadily in recent years, last year there was a 4 per cent reduction to 34,201.

The number of cases dealt with last year in the county courts which were already facing a heavy workload, reflected a 14 per cent increase on the 1988 figures, with 2,6 million cases started.

The statistics also showed a rapid rise in the work of the county courts over the past decade. The number of cases that came before county court judges last year was nearly double the level for 1983 and more than 78 per cent higher than ten years ago.

Ninety per cent of the cases involved claims for money, and about 60 per cent of cases started were for amounts of less than £500, and could therefore have been dealt with by the small claims arbitration procedure.

Nearly half the divorce petitions, which rose by 1 per cent compared with 1988, were filed on the ground of unreasonable behaviour. There were 478 petitions for nullity and 2,741 for judicial separa-

## More days lost through stress factor at work

By LIN JENKINS

THE number of days lost to industry through illness related to stress rose by 10 per cent in 1988, according to official statistics.

Paris deal  
allows  
NUM to  
examine  
finances

# Tory MPs critical of 'outmoded' policing

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL new structure should be created to replace the outmoded, inefficient and Heath Robinson character of policing in Britain, a group of MPs said yesterday.

In an outspoken attack designed to prompt public debate on the future of policing, the Commons home affairs select committee said the present system represented the sum of generations of piecemeal solutions. A thorough overhaul was needed, it said.

Sir John Wheeler, chairman of the Conservative-dominated

## Inspector calls for TVs in jail cells

A SCHEME to allow prisoners to rent televisions for their cells should be considered, the chief inspector of prisons, said yesterday in his annual report (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Judge Tumim said that too many prisoners were either deprived of work or education opportunities or were doing dull, repetitive jobs for derisory pay. Higher wages would stimulate productivity and open the prospect of several innovative schemes. One might be allowing prisoners to use their earnings to pay for televisions.

The report's dominant theme is the need for greater efforts to prepare inmates for release to reduce recidivism. At the moment, half of prisoners reoffend. Judge Tumim says standards of education and work in jails varies sharply and suggests that too often they are used simply to get prisoners out of their cells rather than to produce the constructive attitudes that make further offending less likely.

"Far too often we find a good training course in bricklaying or welding followed by no work in which the craftsman can use his new skills during his remaining years in prison," the report says. "Real work experience in the sense of apt and useful work to encourage a man trained for it was not common in the prisons we inspected."

The committee, whose controversial critique emerged from an examination of the extent of co-operation between European police forces, also called for the creation of a voluntary identity card system in Britain. Pointing out that the holding of an identity card was compulsory in most European Community states, it said the introduction of such a document in Britain would enable holders to instantly identify themselves and would encourage them to travel more widely abroad. In evidence, however, David Waddington, the home secretary, and police officers were less keen.

The establishment of a Community-wide identity card should be an aim of Britain's presidency of the Community in 1992, it adds. The MPs regretted Mr Waddington's aversion to the idea of police within the Community combining operationally as well as in intelligence gathering. They urged him to commission research to examine the viability of cross-frontier units being set up to tackle threats such as terrorism or drugs trafficking.

The committee also said there was a need for greater liaison over legal matters, particularly on extradition.

Responding to the call for national identity cards, the National Council for Civil Liberties said there was no such thing as a voluntary card. If one were to be introduced it would lead to greater discrimination by the police against non-white citizens.

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, 1989, Stationery Office (£8.80)



Judge Tumim: Better training sought

## The Guinness case

# QC sees deceit in takeover secrecy

By PAUL WILKINSON

JURORS in the Guinness trial were yesterday urged to ask themselves why alleged share support operations during the brewers' takeover of Distillers in 1986 were kept secret. Was it done to mislead or to deceive, John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, asked at the start of his closing speech at Southwark Crown Court, south London.

"You may have heard the expression 'secrecy' is the badge of fraud." When you find that a transaction is being kept under wraps it is sensible to ask why. There may be good commercial reasons, but it may also be that the transaction has to be hidden if it is to be effective and then you should ask 'does the transaction depend for its effect upon deception, is that why it has to be hidden?'

Mr Chadwick was speaking on the ninety-third day of the hearing as the case entered its closing stages. The jury has been present for 77 of those days and heard evidence from 73 witnesses. Mr Justice Henry told them he expected to send them out to consider

their verdict during the week beginning August 13.

Ernest Saunders, former chairman of Guinness, and three City figures have denied 22 counts alleging theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act during the Distillers' takeover. It has been claimed that success fees running into millions of pounds were paid illegally by Guinness to ensure its bid was successful. With Mr Saunders in the dock is the Gerald Ronson, chairman of Britain's second largest privately owned group Heron, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier.

Mr Chadwick told the jury that he agreed that no evidence had been brought to show that those involved had been sworn to secrecy, "experienced and sophisticated businessmen are not likely to say to each other 'keep this secret, we must not be found out'. They do not need to."

Mr Chadwick said that Mr Ronson's defence was that he did not appreciate it was unlawful. Mr Parnes maintained that it was not in fact

unlawful and Sir Jack contended that he was not involved at all. Mr Saunders said that he knew nothing about a support operation. "These will be matters for you to judge," Mr Chadwick said.

Mr Chadwick then turned to the charges involving Mr Ronson's Heron Corporation. Mr Ronson has admitted receiving a £5 million success fee and £300,000 to cover losses incurred when the Guinness shares were sold for less than they cost.

The money was paid to Heron through two of its subsidiaries, Heron Management Services and an American company, Pima, of Arizona. Two issues were at stake: was it implicit that the payments would not be disclosed to the public and was Mr Ronson acting dishonestly in making agreements on them? "You should have no hesitation in deciding that it was implicit in the agreements which Mr Ronson has said he made that the arrangements would not be disclosed to the public and that Mr Ronson was well aware of that."

The hearing continues today.

## MPs seek improved pay in residential homes

By JILL SHERMAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PAY and working conditions in residential homes must be improved to safeguard standards of care in the community, the Commons social services select committee suggested yesterday.

The committee highlighted evidence from the Greater Manchester Low Pay Unit that showed that rates of pay in private residential homes were considerably lower than in local authority homes. Yesterday the unit said that it had examples where care assistants were paid only £1.75 an hour in private homes, compared to the local government rate of £3.21.

A woman who worked permanently on night duty in a residential home in Salford had no overtime pay and no paid holidays, but still received only £1.75 an hour, the unit reported. In its evidence to the committee, the unit calls for local authorities to be given wider statutory powers to set "proper" pay rates and conditions of employment.

Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Denton and Reddish, told a press conference yesterday that in some parts of the country there was an overprovision of private homes. As the new reforms came into effect he feared that private homes would compete with each other to offer lower prices resulting in even poorer working conditions. That would be extremely worrying in terms of the standard of care.

The committee report also calls on the government to set up independent inspection units to cover each local authority area. They would be answerable to a strengthened and more independent social services inspectorate.

Under the now delayed plan for the community care reforms "arm's length" inspection bodies will be set up by local councils to monitor residential homes in the public and the private sector from next April in advance of the main reforms. However, the report argues that a national body should perform both an inspecting and an advisory role, similar to the Inspectors of Schools. It also suggests setting up an accreditation system for the planned mixed-economy provision of care under the reforms.

Community Care: Quality (Stationery Office; £6.45)



The circles that appeared overnight in a Wiltshire field, the result of a practical joke that has infuriated researchers

## Scientists protest as hoaxers create a magic circle

By GEORGE HILL

SOMEONE was having a good laugh yesterday morning, either on Mars or in Fleet Street. But high on the chalk ramparts of the prehistoric fort at Westbury Hill in Wiltshire, Colin Andrews was fuming.

Almost £1 million worth of equipment had been assembled at the fort, a vantage point overlooking 60 square miles of ripening cornfields, in the hope of catching the moment of birth of one of the mysterious patterns that have been observed in southern England more often than ever this summer.

Mr Andrews, a leader of the joint project that involves Japanese television, the BBC and Circles Phenomena Research (Mr Andrews' organisation), had been roused at dawn by jubilant colleagues with the news that a series of circles and parallel lines had appeared in a field scarcely a mile from the project's low-light video cameras. But on inspection, the rings proved to be man-made.

In front of the cameras of the international media, Mr Andrews could only declare his rage at the deception.

"Whoever created that circle has demonstrated to young people that it is no bad thing to go on to private property and destroy crops, and to hoodwink a serious research project," he said. "I saw at once that we had an obvious hoax. The pattern is not consistent with the development of this perfectly genuine phenomenon, and an inspection on the ground showed very severe damage to the corn - bruising, severance and disturbance consistent with human feet. This is quite unlike the pattern one sees in genuine circles."

In the centre of last night's largest circle, which had three concentric rings, the investigators found a Ouija board, two sticks forming a cross, and a coil of red insulated electric cable. "The incident has demonstrated that our equipment can tell within seconds whether a ring is a hoax or not," Mr Andrews declared, making the best of the case.

"The equipment even detected the heat from the bodies of the perpetrators." But a BBC producer involved in the

project was more cautious: "Our people watching the tapes during the night saw nothing. At dawn, we saw that the circles had appeared. When we checked the tapes, we saw that the circles had appeared at about 3am. There were lights to be seen on the tape, but it is possible that they were dew drops on the front of the camera."

Michael King, joint owner of the field where the rings appeared, said: "I have always believed that these things were just practical jokes. They are just a nuisance to us. It gets up my nose that people think it's amusing to go on to private property and destroy good crops, just for fun."

Mr Andrews, who has been hunting corn circles for 12 years, did not let the disappointment shake his faith that there is a genuine non-human phenomenon to be studied, and that it is caused by processes unknown to science. "I would not disagree that supernatural is the most appropriate word in our language today for what we are seeing in genuine circles. But I am sure that what is regarded as supernatural today will be science tomorrow."

"There is fairly powerful evidence that we are dealing with an airborne approach by some form of consciousness, aware of its location and responding to colour and man-made features. Year by year, the circles have increased in complexity, in a process that has evolved more quickly than any natural phenomenon recorded. This is a very deep subject."

He would not enlarge on whether the signs contained any message. "I have thoughts, but I cannot divulge anything that might damage this research programme."

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The hearing continues today.

## Hailstones, hedgehogs or simply summer madness

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE only theory bearing any credence after yesterday's crop circle fiasco is the one championed by scientists at the Meteorological Office in Bracknell. "We have people looking at these things in their spare time, and the consensus is that they are a glorified hoax," a spokesman said.

He said that scientists had been unable to identify atmospheric features capable of carving circular, rectangular or dumb-bell shapes in wheatfields. The Meteorological Office had suggested that they could be the torches of pranksters, even before researchers admitted that yesterday morning's filming of orange lights was a hoax.

Many dedicated enthusiasts would to some extent concur with the weathermen's view, but Archibald Roy, professor of astronomy at Glasgow University and president of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, said that hoaxers could not account for all of this year's 400 recorded crop circles.

The most scientifically respected theory is the one being advanced by Dr Meaden, who believes that the topography of Wiltshire and Hampshire and the region's high frequency of cool sea breezes causes the formation of mini whirlwinds.

As they break down over fields, a doughnut-shaped eddy within the column sweeps downwards, swirling the crop into a characteristic shape. The lights linked with crop circle phenomenon are caused by particles of pollen, dust and salt that have been

come charged by the whirlwind's intense spin, Dr Meaden claimed.

Critics believe such a neat explanation fails to answer this summer's appearance of elaborate circles within circles, and increasingly complicated shapes. The idea that circles could be caused by the downdraught from the spinning blades of helicopters have been dismissed by the military, who claim that they could make shapes in crops only if they flew upside down. Giant melting hailstones, possibly formed by aircraft discharging sewage, UFOs, ghosts, small holes in the ozone layer allowing ultra violet light to weaken crops, soil disorders, spreading underground fungi, and rutting deer are all theories that have their supporters and detractors.

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Science and Technology, pages 14-15



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King's sta

Military  
reduced

# Strategy for a fighting force fit for the 1990s takes shape

The defence secretary did the decent thing in his ministerial statement to the House of Commons yesterday. A couple of weeks ago he promised that, before MPs left for their holidays, he would explain how his ministry intends to economise during what is left of 1990-1 to ensure that it does not exceed its £21 billion cash budget for the financial year. He said a bit about that.

Tom King has also been under pressure of late to disclose what sort of blueprint for Britain's defence effort in the 1990s might eventually emerge from the "options for change" exercise which his senior people are undertaking. Uncertainty about that has begun to affect morale in the forces, especially among the 60,000 troops in West Germany. Defence contractors too have been crying out for guidance on what the future holds. The minister had quite a lot to say about that. He was

cryptic about short-term economy measures, but we can guess what he intends. When you have to axe several hundred million pounds from a departmental programme in a hurry, there is little margin for manoeuvre.

To check personnel spending, the services have certainly been told to go slow on recruiting and not to worry if they fall short of manning targets. To keep outlays on operations and maintenance within bounds, my guess is that soon there is to be a cut-back in activity levels (ship-days at sea, the army's field training, aircraft flying hours); and equipment that breaks down will increasingly be left unprepared.

As for procurement expenditure — for new equipment — the word was probably gone out already that orders must be slashed and acquisition timetables stretched wherever possible. (Cancellation of a follow-on order for Tornados was announced just the

other week). Perhaps it was embarrassment that made the defence secretary tight-lipped about these hasty cuts. After all it is astounding that the defence ministry should be struggling to extricate itself from a financial pickle. Whatever happened to the MoD's smart new structures and procedures for managing its programme?

The official line is, of course, that the Treasury is the culprit. The mandarins there grossly underestimated the inflation rate when setting defence's cash allocation for 1990-1; and the fact that the prospect of running out of money before the end of the financial year was spotted so early actually shows the effectiveness of the new cash management routines. That may be true. However, it is also the case that, for at least five years now, reputable defence analysts have been pointing to a growing discrepancy between the cash allocated to the MoD's programme and

the resources required to sustain the existing force structure and force levels while keeping the services' equipment up to date and up to scratch.

So, there is now to be a root-and-branch review of the defence effort, arising from the option for change undertaking. The impulses behind this exercise are the changed climate of East-West relations, the imminence of a first accord on reducing conventional forces in Europe (CFE), plus the reformulation of Nato's doctrine and impending reorganisation of Nato's dispositions on the Continent.

Yesterday's ministerial statement conveyed the bare bones of what Mrs Thatcher's government has in mind for a phased adjustment over the next five to seven years. It envisages bringing a division's worth of troops home from West Germany and reducing the number of RAF bases there from four to two. That will please the increasingly

environment conscious Germans. A UK-based division will be struck from the army's order of battle and the air force will lose a total of five interception/strike Tornado squadrons.

They are not going to savage the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines, however. The government thinks the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines should lose less than 5 percent of their personnel and very few warships. The modest contraction foreseen by the navy may, of course, be a reflection of what Liddell Hart called the "dining out power" which the senior service can muster, or even the special place in the prime minister's affections which her admirals won during the Falklands campaign.

However it also makes sense. For one thing naval power fits in well with the concept of a shift towards more flexible, mobile and versatile forces for the later 1990s, when the likelihood is that the

main challenges to Western security will arise outside rather than within the Nato area. But, more important, a reallocation of roles and responsibilities within the Atlantic alliance is about to occur as a new model force structure — centred on a 370,000-strong united Germany's Bundeswehr and a much-reduced American presence of 195,000 (and maybe fewer) in the central region — is put in place.

It is the desirability of thus meshing whatever restructuring the United Kingdom does with what is being done in the alliance as a whole which makes it particularly gratifying that Mr King was at pains yesterday to emphasise that the final shape of his defence review would not be settled until after the fullest consultation with allies.

DAVID GREENWOOD  
Director of the Centre for Defence Studies, University of Aberdeen

## How German unity leaves services' fate in the balance

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A UNITED Germany might request the total withdrawal of British forces from its territory, the Commons defence committee said yesterday in a report on the implications of the unification of Germany and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact.

The MPs reported: "The purely military justification for stationed forces in Germany has to be questioned as forward defence is reviewed and as the Bundeswehr looks increasingly able to provide for defence of German territory. If the new Germany were positively to request the withdrawal of BFG (British Forces Germany), that would put the matter beyond doubt. It is a possibility which has to be borne in mind."

It was just as plausible to imagine, however, that as its military role receded and its overall numbers were reduced, the political role of the BFG would increase and that Germany and the rest of Europe would welcome integrated stationed forces in Germany. The committee gave a warning that the deployment of British units in Germany must be a matter for agreement within Nato, responding to the outcome of discussions on a replacement of the present corps structure.

It would be premature to quantify at this stage the exact number of British soldiers to be withdrawn. "Until new deployments and command structures are clearer, BFG's basic structure — if not its size — can remain as it is," the report said. There was no

inevitable logic in seeking to match any reductions exactly to those made by the Soviet Union in East Germany or other Nato countries in West Germany. It was clear, however, that the commitments under the Paris protocols to the Brussels Treaty were no longer appropriate.

The committee's report, a summary of which was released on Tuesday, focused in some detail on the likely fate of the British Army of the Rhine and the RAF squadrons in Germany. The immediate question to be faced, the MPs said, was the extent to which units withdrawn were to be redeployed or disbanded.

Moving troops presented a management challenge in securing housing and alternative training areas. The defence ministry had told the MPs that there were no available UK permanent barracks "capable of housing an army major unit and its families".

New barracks for an infantry battalion could cost up to £55 million, the committee said, excluding the cost of land. It would be prudent to assume, however, that most of the forces withdrawn from Germany would not be retained. Staff from disbanded units who wished to remain in the services could be used to fill vacant posts elsewhere. "It would be absurd to lose highly-trained personnel when the services cannot recruit and retain enough of them," the report said.

Nevertheless, some service and civilian personnel would probably be made redundant.

Therefore, the terms should be "agreed and promulgated as soon as possible".

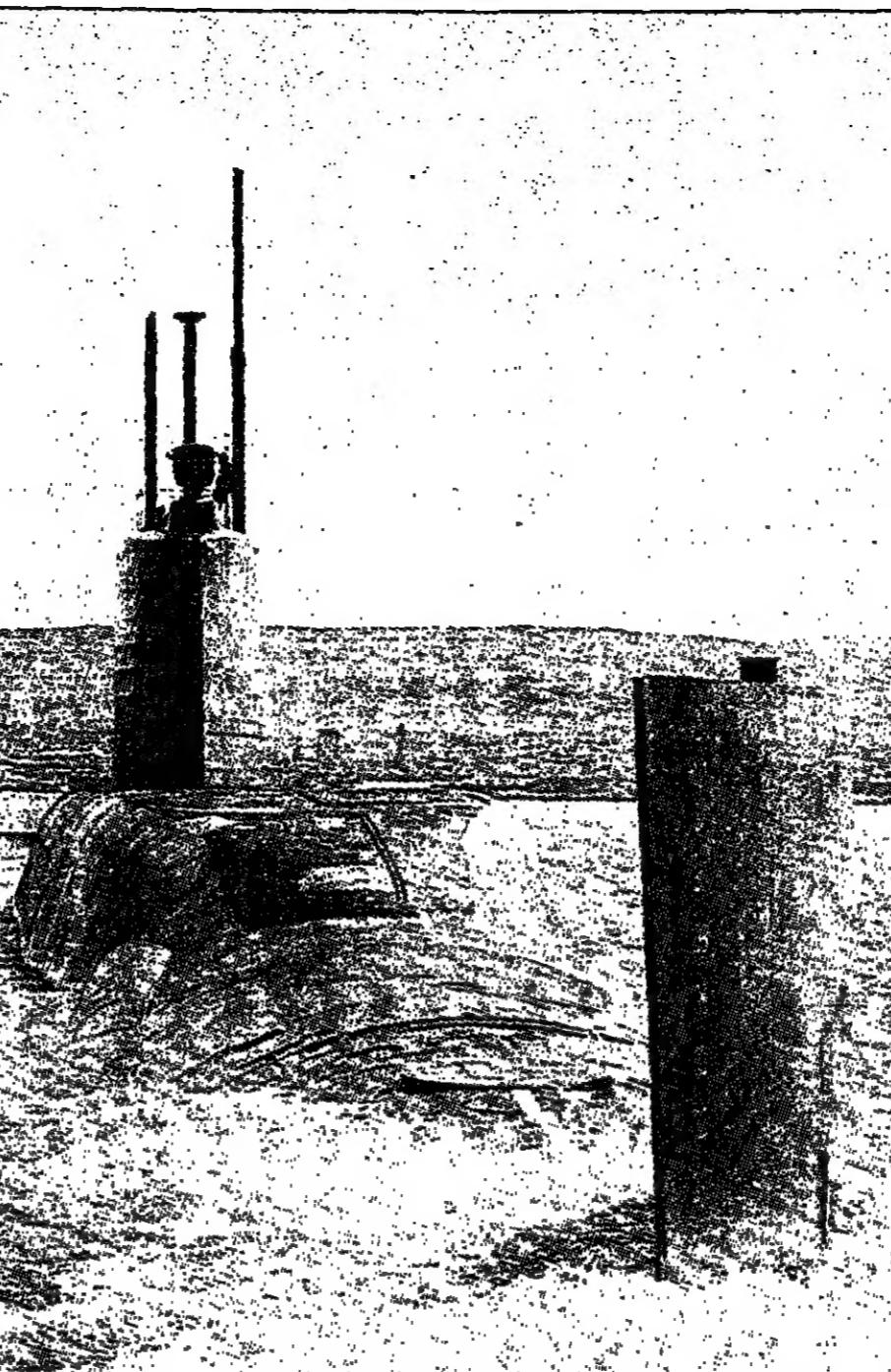
The report added that the government's "options for change" defence review must indicate the financial implications of British troops withdrawing from Germany. An infrastructure equivalent to a small city had been developed in northwest Germany. There were 82 schools, four hospitals and 70 medical centres. Ten per cent of married BFG personnel had German wives. A smaller British presence would not need fixed infrastructure on the present scale.

The committee suggested that, in the longer term, some forces could be stationed elsewhere on the continent, albeit in very small numbers, even though Tom King, the defence secretary, had said he considered it unlikely.

The committee accepted that there were political advantages to having multinational forces in Germany. The government had already endorsed the concept as a way of deploying stationed forces there in the future. But the MPs raised some doubts. "Multinational forces consisting of troops from several different countries, with different equipment, training and discipline, and no common language, could be a recipe for disaster."

Defence Implications of Recent Events (Commons Defence Committee, Stationery Office, £18)

Leading article, page 11



HMS Repulse, one of four Polaris ballistic missile submarines, Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, returning to port after completing the 200th Polaris patrol since the boats came into service more than 21 years ago. The Polaris boats, which are to be replaced by Trident, maintain the deterrent at sea on patrol 365 days a year.

## King's statement to the Commons on defence structure for the 90s

Excerpts from the statement to the House of Commons by Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence.

IN THE "options for change" studies, we have sought to devise a structure for our regular forces appropriate to the new security situation and meeting our essential peacetime operational needs. The framework would be reinforced in a period of tension by drawing on volunteer reserves and reservists. We have also allowed for the possible need to build back up our forces over a longer period should international circumstances ever require us to do so.

There clearly are opportunities but also risks in Europe and elsewhere some worrying trends — not least, the proliferation of sophisticated weapons systems. We shall therefore continue to need a robust defence capability as our insurance against the unexpected.

Our proposals will bring a reduction in the share of GDP taken by defence. We need force levels which we can afford and which can realistically be manned. The aim is smaller forces, better equipped, properly trained and housed, and well motivated. They will need to be flexible and mobile.

We shall retain our strategic deterrent with a four-boat Trident force. In accordance with Nato

policy for an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional forces in Europe, we shall also need a strategic force of dual-capable Tornadoes with a stand-off missile.

We must also continue to ensure the effective defence of the United Kingdom itself. A comprehensive air defence capability will be essential, although with a smaller fighter force than had been planned. The UK fighter force would be held at seven squadrons of air-defence Tornados, supplemented by armed Hawks, and the remaining two Phantom squadrons to be withdrawn. We plan to retain at about present levels our home defence forces and our capability to deal with hostile

mine-laying in home waters. We shall sustain our contribution in Northern Ireland. For as long as they are needed, we will provide forces in the Falklands, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Belize and — until 1997 — Hong Kong.

We will continue to deploy forces in Germany alongside our German and other allies. We envisage that our stationed forces could be roughly half their present strength. When reinforced from the UK, our army contribution could comprise of two divisions, rather than four as at present.

We expect to reduce the RAF presence in Germany from four bases to two. We envisage retaining Harrier and helicopter forces there.

### The main changes for British forces

ARMY: British Army of the Rhine reduced from four to two divisions. 55,000 manpower halved. No change in 100,000 regular-reserve personnel designated for the defence of Britain.

RAF: Manpower cut from 89,000 to 75,000. In Britain, Tornado F3 squadrons increased from six to seven. Two Phantom squadrons disbanded. In Germany, bases cut from four to two and squadrons from fifteen to nine. Four Tornado fighter-bomber squadrons and two Phantom squadrons disbanded. Three British-based Tornado squadrons designated for the defence of Europe cut to two.

ROYAL NAVY-ROYAL MARINES: Manpower

reduced by 3,000 to 60,000. Nuclear and diesel-powered submarines cut to 16 and frigate-destroyer fleet to shrink from 48 to 40. The two Buccaneer maritime strike aircraft to be replaced with Tornados redeployed from Germany. Three aircraft carriers to be retained and their Sea Harriers updated. Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft reduced by 15 per cent. The two amphibious assault ships retained.

NUCLEAR DETERRENT: The four-submarine Trident force will go ahead.

OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS: Britain will continue to provide forces in the Falklands, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Belize, and in Hong Kong until 1997.

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes emerged from the High Court's steamy libel jungle yesterday with £100,000 in damages. The man described by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's greatest living explorer had complained that a nasty, mean-minded and spiteful article in a Canadian magazine, *Maclean's*, dismissed his exploits as having achieved nothing of historical or scientific value.

The jury took no more than 40 minutes to decide that the explorer had been libelled by an article in *Maclean's* in April 1988 that stated that "Prince Charles always supports him, claiming great results for British exports, but no-one has ever been able to demonstrate that any scientific or historical

benefits have resulted". The damages and legal costs estimated to be £75,000, were awarded against the magazine's editor, Kevin Doyle, the journalist Alan Fotheringham, who wrote the article, and the UK publishers Maclean Hunter, who denied that the words bore any defamatory meaning.

His wife Virginia, a companion on many of his expeditions, said afterwards: "The damages are astonishingly high. We never expected anything like that."

Summing up, the senior libel judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, said that the article read as a whole may have portrayed Sir Ranulph "as an upper class twit, not a real explorer, but a bumbling playboy".

### HIV death claim

The parents of a teenage haemophiliac who died from HIV-related illness due to contaminated blood products have asked William Reid, the ombudsman, to intervene in their quest for compensation from the government (Thomson Prentice white).

The Haemophilia Society and Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, are supporting the appeal by Jed and Joan Hillary, of Stockport, Cheshire, whose son Gerald died last November, aged 16.

### Drug charge

Two Britons accused of trying to smuggle 870g of cocaine out of Peru have gone on trial.

Brian Tristram and John Boxhall, both of London, who were arrested in December 1988 at Lima's international airport, face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

### Plans cost more

The cost of applying for planning permission is to be increased by 20 per cent from November, Michael Spicer, the planning minister, said yesterday. The cost of an application to build a new house will rise to £92 while that for an extension will be £46.

### Rushdie video

Thousands of pirate copies of the film *International Guerillas*, showing the fictional death of the author Salman Rushdie, are reported to have flooded Birmingham's video market. Illegal copies of the banned film are for hire at £5.

### Mascot dies

The Royal Regiment of Wales was in mourning yesterday after the death of its mascot, Dewi the goat. Dewi made hundreds of appearances for the regiment's third battalion.

### Oldest man dies

Sam Crabbe, Britain's oldest man, has died at the age of 109, six weeks after taking over the title. Mr Crabbe, of Cadgwith, Cornwall, died after being admitted to hospital with a chest infection.

### Driver crushed

A driver was killed when a road roller fell off the back of a lorry and crushed his car at Langtoft, Lincolnshire.

## Single market gets 50p coin

The Queen has approved the issue of a commemorative 50p coin to mark Britain's presidency of the EC council of ministers and the start of the single European market, both in 1992.

John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announcing the new coin, said that, apart from the circulated design, collectors' versions will also be issued in base metal, silver and gold.

### £30m TriStar contract

A contract worth more than £30 million for maintenance of the RAF TriStar fleet has been let, after intense competition, to Marshall of Cambridge (Engineering).

Alan Clark, defence procurement minister, said in a written reply that the contract covered scheduled and unscheduled maintenance of the aircraft, including repair and overhaul of components, over the next four years.

### Recycled newspapers

David Heathcoat-Amory, junior environment minister, said in a written reply that he intended to have meetings with individual newspaper publishers, newspaper manufacturers and the Newsprint Publishers Association soon to discuss further what measures can be taken to increase the proportion of recycled paper used in newsprint.

### Collection of poll tax

Community charge collection figures "among the more competent local authorities" were pretty good, Christopher Patten, environment secretary, said during question time. Overall figures showed that the collection level was about the same as for domestic rates last year. Poole borough council had achieved 97 per cent.

### Dental checks bring in £50m

Charges for dental checks raised £50 million for the Exchequer in 1989-90 and are expected to raise £55 million this financial year, Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said in a Commons written reply.

### Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Summer adjournment debates. Lords (11): Employment bill, third reading, Broadcasting bill, seventh and final day.

# Quick benefit from ERM is ruled out by Chancellor

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday that Britain should not expect immediate short-term benefits from joining the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) of the European monetary system.

Entry will not be a panacea, he added under questioning by the Commons Treasury and civil service committee.

Mr Major also disclosed that since he took over as Chancellor from Nigel Lawson last October he has become more convinced over Britain's entry.

"I do believe it is absolutely right for sterling to join. That is not a view I held with such force a year ago," he said.

Defending his "hard ecu" proposals, he told MPs that they were not a political guise or a delaying tactic to counter moves within the European Community towards a single currency.

"They are a genuine contribution to an important debate that is taking place in Europe."

He also described them as the most "disinflationary proposal" put forward. However, he indicated that a single currency might be the ultimate goal, since filling the "black hole" between stage one of the Delors strategy, which includes entry into the ERM, and stage three.

He predicted that the hard ecu would be the strongest of the 13 EC currencies. His proposed European monetary fund would be responsible only for the monetary policies of the hard ecu and not involved in controlling sterling.

There is no wish within the community to move towards making the mark a common currency and abandoning the ecu, he said. Although he admired West Germany's inflation record, there was no intrinsic reason or guarantee that the

ecu would be the strongest of the 13 EC currencies. His proposed European monetary fund would be responsible only for the monetary policies of the hard ecu and not involved in controlling sterling.

"I hope there will be more members of the Commons and the Lords who will take a constructive role in it. So long as ministers feel that there is only a handful of members who bother, then no amount of procedures will remove that."

### Whips appointed

ONE of the wittiest speakers in Parliament was named yesterday as a Conservative whip, effectively silencing him in the Commons chamber (our Political Editor writes). Neil Hamilton, the hardline Thatcherite MP for Tatton who entered the Commons in June 1983, was named as an assistant whip with two MPs from the 1987 intake, Timothy Kirkhope (Leeds North East) and Timothy Boswell (Daventry).

Mr Boswell, a former farmer and adviser to the agriculture ministry, was once head of the economic section in the Conservative research department. Mr Kirkhope is a solicitor and holds a private pilot's licence.

Their promotions complete the July reshuffle in the Commons, although there are still changes to be announced among the government whips in the Lords.



John Major: More convinced than ever on the necessity for Britain to enter

## Drop fast reactors, energy MPs say

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S fast nuclear reactor development programme, on which £4 billion has been spent over the past 30 years, should be abandoned by 1993 at the earliest, or 1997 at the latest, according to the Commons energy select committee.

The proposal could seal the fate of the research centre at Dounreay in Caithness, which is already under review by the energy department, because the committee report also rejects plans for UK collaboration in a European fast reactor project.

In a vigorous response, Brian Eyle, chief executive of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, dismissed the committee's conclusions.

He said: "Part of the impetus of the committee is the feeling that we should make a strenuous effort to reach agreement. If we lose that feeling, then the community would be the weaker."

Mr Hurd implicitly criticised many MPs who took little interest in the development of the EC.

"I hope there will be more members of the Commons and the Lords who will take a constructive role in it. So long as ministers feel that there is only a handful of members who bother, then no amount of procedures will remove that."

He added: "On many important points the report is wrong. We are not talking about paper reactors, but real experiments.

He said: "The committee has taken a narrow and short-term view. The argument for investing in the development of fast reactors has always been strategic, making sure we have a secure long-term clean electricity supply."

Global warming is a real threat, and nuclear power is a major part of the answer. But the world's present generation of reactors is using up uranium far too rapidly. The fast reactor, which is 60 times more efficient, will need to be introduced early next century."

The committee recommends the use of Dounreay and its scientific manpower for the development of wave power, wind power and other alternative technologies.

### DNA tests accepted

Genetic testing will be made legal in Scotland to help to track down fathers in disputes over paternity cases (Sheila Gunn writes).

In the final hours of debate in committee on the Scottish law reform bill, the government unexpectedly accepted a Labour amendment introducing DNA testing in civil cases. The concession points to similar moves eventually in England and Wales to help the proposed child support agency to pursue absent fathers for maintenance.

Donald Dewar, shadow Scottish secretary, said yesterday: "DNA testing is a reliable way of establishing paternity and it is in that context that the new clause is likely to be most relevant. The court will be able to direct a party to a paternity action to take a DNA test."

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# Gorbachev acts to quell armed bands in restive republics

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has declared war on the armed bands that have effectively taken over some parts of the Soviet Union, particularly in the Transcaucasus.

In a presidential decree issued yesterday, the Soviet leader instructed all unauthorised armed units on Soviet territory to disband within 15 days and surrender their weapons and supplies.

The decree serves warning that the interior ministry will use its own troops, or in exceptional cases regular army detachments, against groups deemed to pose a threat to the safety of the population or the security of the state.

The instruction appears to be directed primarily against armed bands that have been operating in the southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Their activity was sparked off initially by the dispute over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is officially administered by Azerbaijan but populated mainly by

Armenians. In recent months, however, the armed groups have turned their attention to Soviet troops sent to keep the peace.

Unofficial reports from Armenia — which has been closed to foreign journalists based in Moscow for several months — indicate that something akin to a guerrilla war is in progress between well-armed Armenian partisans and regular Soviet troops.

Last week it was reported from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, that district offices of the interior ministry and police stations had been attacked by bands in search of weapons. The report described a late-night attack on a police arsenal in the town of Kirovakan, one of the places damaged in the 1988 earthquake. Troops who had tried to defend the building had been attacked with automatic weapons and a junior officer had been killed.

The army newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, also reported that a "large group of

"extremists" had carried out an armed attack on a Soviet army detachment only 12 miles from Yerevan. They had cut all telephone links and seized 37 automatic weapons and 870 rounds of ammunition, as well as hand-grenades.

The article concluded by asking "Who will these weapons be used against, and when will the law be enforced?"

In a commentary the army newspaper yesterday said that more than six different armed groupings were operating in Armenia, some of them openly calling themselves "armies".

It claimed that there had been more than 200 attacks on Soviet military personnel in the republic since the beginning of the year, resulting in the loss of more than 2,000 guns, but only a small number of the attackers had been caught and brought to trial.

A senior official of the Armenian judiciary was quoted as saying that the reason why so few had been brought to justice was that "there are no witnesses".

He added: "People are afraid to testify. The law and order enforcement agencies have lost control."

Armenian groups claim that their activity is inspired by two considerations: a desire to "see justice done" in Nagorno-Karabakh, which was returned to the control of Azerbaijan last summer after a period of ineffectual direct rule from Moscow, and the need to protect the safety of the Armenian population which, they claim, the Soviet authorities have not been able to guarantee.

Armenians cite the anti-Azerbaijani pogroms in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait and the continuing Azerbaijani blockade of the rail link with Armenia, which has caused power shortages and hindered earthquake relief and reconstruction work, as examples of how the central authorities have failed the Armenian population.

The general nature of yesterday's presidential decree suggests that it could also be intended as a pre-emptive measure in case the Baltic republics and the Ukraine move to recruit their own armed forces.

Shortly after Lithuania declared independence, posters were displayed calling for volunteers to defend the new state, and the declaration of sovereignty passed recently by the Ukrainian parliament provides for the republic's own army.

Marshall aid was crucial in rebuilding the shattered West German economy after the war. But when the need subsided Bonn kept the fund going, mostly from the repayment of loans, as a vehicle for regional development, environmental protection and the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses.

Although Armenia and possibly other areas of the Soviet Union are clearly out of control, it is unclear why Mr Gorbachev has decided to issue a presidential decree authorising action which the leadership of any country would be empowered to take.

The decree will not make it easier for the army or the interior ministry to take action in areas where they will be heavily outnumbered and where public support is likely to be negligible.

Failure to take action, or even defeat, will only make the central leadership look even weaker.

There are potential problems with firearms even in those regions of the country which have been relatively calm. The incidence of armed robbery has increased dramatically in the past two years and unauthorised ownership of weapons is widespread.

Soviet television recently showed a factory producing hunting rifles which was converting a proportion of its output into machine-guns.

These were then sold on the black market for vodka.

Debts cleared, page 25



Burning grief: an elderly man, with his grand-daughter, weeping amid the ruins of his home in Uzgen, Soviet Kirghizia, burnt in ethnic unrest over land allocation

## De Maizière calls off Kohl meeting

From ANNE MCÉLVOY IN BERLIN

WITH only a day's notice, Lothar de Maizière, the East German prime minister, has cancelled his visit to Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, as the difficulties in his country's coalition government increase. Herr de Maizière was to have seen Herr Kohl at his Austrian holiday home at Wolfensee today to discuss the situation. He called off the meeting saying that it was "needed at home in these difficult days".

The East German leader did fly to Austria yesterday for a meeting with industrialists but returned last night for today's emergency sitting of the Christian Democrat (CDU) and Social Democrat (SPD) factions. A government spokesman denied that any snub was intended to Herr Kohl.

Herr Kohl had been expected to call the East German CDU to order in his meetings with Herr de Maizière and telephoned him on Tuesday to discuss the disagreement over the date of unification and the arrangements for the first pan-German elections.

Herr de Maizière yesterday offered the SPD more talks in the presence of constitutional experts in an attempt to end the stalemate, but these were rejected. The SPD will decide by the end of the week whether to leave the coalition as the Liberal party did on Tuesday. The two Liberal party ministers failed to attend the

## Marshall Plan funds for East Germany

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has given Bonn the go-ahead for a fivefold increase in aid sent to East Germany from the Marshall Plan funds, originally used to rebuild Europe after the Second World War.

Some DM 6 billion (£2.3 billion) will be available in subsidised loans to East Germany this year for pollution control, to boost tourism and to promote small and medium-sized businesses in May. West Germany announced that DM 1.9 million (£645,000) of Marshall aid was available, but the flood of applications from the East was so large Bonn asked for a big rise in the amount to cope.

Marshall aid was crucial in rebuilding the shattered West German economy after the war. But when the need subsided Bonn kept the fund going, mostly from the repayment of loans, as a vehicle for regional development, environmental protection and the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses.

Although Armenia and possibly other areas of the Soviet Union are clearly out of control, it is unclear why Mr Gorbachev has decided to issue a presidential decree authorising action which the leadership of any country would be empowered to take.

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Debts cleared, page 25

## US and EC no nearer settling farm dispute

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

AFTER two days of critical talks in Geneva, the United States and the European Community appear hardly any closer to settling their dispute over farm subsidies.

They have agreed to use a compromise paper as a means of intensifying negotiations. But the subject of how and how fast to cut subsidies to farmers worldwide have been delayed till late August, further threatening the entire round of global trade liberalisation measures under way in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva, which is due to be concluded in December.

The EC fears massive social

upheaval if the subsidies to many of its 11 million farmers are cut. US, with just two million people working on the land, argues that farms should be forced like industry to survive in the market place.

Despite the EC agreement to use the compromise drawn up by Aart de Zeeuw, Gatt chief farm negotiator, as a basis for talks, it still rejects key details within it. Ray MacSharry, EC farm commissioner, said: "The Community has made it very clear that Mr de Zeeuw's proposals for sharp reductions on export assistance and for specific commitments on export refunds are unacceptable."

Mrs Papandreu will introduce her plans under majority voting, so that Britain cannot alone veto them. Denmark also opposes commission legislation in this field, but will be appeased by the acceptance of union agreements.

Britain insisted yesterday that its night and shift workers

were properly covered under existing health and safety laws.

"We recognise that the commission has taken some account of our concerns, but we believe that the proposed controls would be unnecessary and direct attention from higher priorities such as job creation," said a spokesman in Brussels.

## Russians mourn rebel balladeer

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A USUALLY quiet corner of a Moscow cemetery was turned into a tumult of flowers and music yesterday as thousands paid homage to the memory of a ballad singer who is venerated as the spirit of his age. Vladimir Vysotsky was aged only 43 when he died ten years ago yesterday. Hard living, hard drinking and the political exigencies of life in Brezhnev's Soviet Union cut short his life.

Yet he was a popular hero. His acerbic and often bawdy songs were repeated at gatherings of young people all over the Soviet Union. Recordings of his late-night performances at the Taganka theatre in Moscow were passed from hand to hand. And when he died, the word went around the country within

Although President Havel did not urge a lifting of the "boycott", he seemed to accept that he was taking a certain risk by speaking out on the subject.

"If I go against a certain

fashion, conscious of all the

risks that it entails, then that

can be for the political good,

but at the same time contain

an element of moral courage —

if one does not go, then the

other does not go. They are

flowers and stand for a few seconds at his grave. Rain was no deterrent. Over the past four years, Vysotsky has been gradually rehabilitated and claimed by the Soviet establishment. Books of his songs, the exaggerated versions, have been published. Records and cassettes are officially produced and sold. Concerts and musical tributes are staged, using pictures and recordings donated by, among others, the KGB archive.

A memorial shrine set up on the opposite side of the road included a book for tributes. "Thank you, Vladimir. Tver remembers you," read one. Tver is the old Russian name for the city northwest of Moscow now known as Kalinin. The city council recently asked that the name be restored.

The inscription captured the essence of Vysotsky's appeal: Russians felt that he dared to express what they had neither the ability nor the courage to do. His ballads, sung in a rasping voice to his own guitar accompaniment, told of Communist party privileges, of the shopping queues, and of the small humiliations suffered by ordinary people. They ridiculed the discrepancy between the promised "bright future" and the grim reality.

"He told things how they were," said

one middle-aged woman at the cemetery yesterday. And, she might have added, at a time when that was forbidden. Over the past four years, Vysotsky has been gradually rehabilitated and claimed by the Soviet establishment. Books of his songs, the exaggerated versions, have been published. Records and cassettes are officially produced and sold. Concerts and musical tributes are staged, using pictures and recordings donated by, among others, the KGB archive.

Yesterday the official press published its own tributes. The Communist party's youth paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, opened its back-page article by asking: "Can you live by your conscience if the very structure of society has none?" In the Gorbachev era, Vysotsky is regarded as one of a select pantheon which includes Andrei Sakharov and several emigre writers (but not yet Alexander Solzhenitsyn) who were guardians of the people's conscience at a time when conscience did not count.

Meanwhile, at the cemetery people listened to renditions of his songs by faithful imitators. The rough voice, the angry tone, the biting words, were all there. But the sense of risk and rebellion which gave Vysotsky his claim to posterity has gone.

## Moving of US gas weapons inspires alarm

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A MULTI-MILLION dollar operation to destroy chemical weapons, capable of wiping out three times the world's population, starts from the American security base at Clausen, near Kaiserslautern, this morning despite widespread local opposition.

Even though three years of planning have gone into the \$46 million (£2.8 million) operation, citizens' action groups and the governments of at least two Länder (states), through which the lethal load must pass on its way to eventual destruction on a Pacific atoll, are complaining that security is inadequate.

They say the shells should stay put until better methods of destroying them are developed. Unlike modern chemical weapons, which contain two elements that only become dangerous when mixed, these shells contain the chemical already mixed. A slight crack in a casing could release enough to kill thousands.

For political and weather reasons, the United States wants to move the shells as soon as possible for eventual destruction at Johnston atoll, 700 miles south of Hawaii. The political reason is to show a willingness to comply with the agreement between President Bush and President Gorbachev this year, to cut stockpiles to 5,000 tonnes by 2002 and ultimately eliminate chemical weapons.

The weather reason is the unpredictability of the North Sea in winter. Two adapted US Navy ships will transport the shells, but they do not want to sail as winter sets in, when the risk of cargo coming loose in a storm would be greatest.

"Operation Lindwurm", named after a mythical, endless snake-like beast, is proceeding despite threats — by environmentalists to block the route, by state governments to use the courts to delay, or prevent shipment across their territory, and by dock workers to hinder shipment.

Last week the court in Cologne threw out an attempt by 12 residents on the route to ban the shipment, or "death convoy" as protesters call it, on the ground that it was unsafe. The court accepted that security for carrying the defused shells containing 43 tonnes of Sarin and VX nerve gas was adequate.

This has cleared the way for the first five-mile convoy of 80 vehicles to make the 30-mile journey from Clausen to another American base at Miesau, where the shells will be stored until all 102,000 have been collected, ready for the 300 miles to the North Sea port of Nordenham by train.

Only 20 vehicles will be carrying the airtight steel containers loaded with the shells, which have also had their propellant removed. The rest will include armoured vehicles, decontamination units and transport for firemen, and

## Romania takes first step to privatisation

From CATHERINE ADAMS IN BUCHAREST

THE Romanian Senate has unanimously passed the first part of the historic privatisation bill which puts 20 percent of vital state-owned enterprises into the hands of the workers.

After the vote Adrian Severin, the minister for liaison with parliament, declared the move "an extremely important and radical step on the way to reforms". He said: "We hope it is accepted by the population and that it increases their efforts to work."

The law is at odds with the previous platform of the National Salvation Front, which won a landslide in the May elections with a policy of slow transition to privatisation. A policy of swift reforms was advocated by the opposition parties and dreaded by a population which feared redundancies would follow the privatisation of state-owned enterprises.

Pete Roman, the prime minister, said: "I am glad if our laws incorporate the views of the opposition parties." The law, which is expected to be passed within a week, reverses the policy of the past 42 years and comes just seven months after the revolution of 1989.

The law applies to "industries of strategic importance" such as armaments, railways, energy, telecommunications and mining. Workers will automatically be issued with a voucher at a fixed price, interchangeable between enterprises, which can be converted into a share after a year. Anyone aged over 18 with five years' working experience will be eligible, apart from those with a criminal record for "moral or financial crimes".

Mr Severin said: "The process of privatisation is now unstoppable. A part of the state capital will be transferred free of charge in a complete reversal of the nationalisation of 1948."

ALGARVE PROPERTY...?

The best of the Algarve is in the heart of London at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch on July 26th, 27th and 28th at the Portugal for Golfers Exhibition. Admission is free and you could win one of four fantastic holidays for two.

Opening times for the public: Thursday July 26th 11.00 - 4.30 pm • Friday July 27th 11.00 - 10.00 pm • Saturday July 28th 11.00 - 8.00 pm

# Superpowers near deal on formula for Kabul peace

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration believes it is within sight of a deal with Moscow that could end the decade-long war in Afghanistan between the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul and US-supported Mujahedin rebels.

Officials are optimistic that an agreement-in-principle will be concluded next week when James Baker, the US Secretary of State, meets Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, in Irkutsk, Siberia, for two days of talks on regional matters.

The administration believes that compromise proposals made recently by Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, now represent official Soviet policy, and it views these as being an acceptable basis for a settlement.

The one long-standing disagreement between the superpowers has been the future role of President Najibullah of Afghanistan. The putative agreement would end all superpower arms shipments to Afghanistan and create an interim authority to prepare for and supervise free elections.

The US has dropped its early insistence that Dr Najibullah be barred from standing in these elections. And bowing to US demands that he should not have the advantages of incumbency, Moscow is said to be proposing that during the pre-election period he keep the symbolic post of president but yield control to the interim authority of the secret police, and the defence, interior and information ministries.

The agreement contains many awkward details to be worked out, such as timetables and who would sit on the interim authority. Officials here say Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze may call to the United Nations, pledging their full support for its efforts to achieve peace and promising to exert maximum pressure on their respective clients in Afghanistan.

In a separate development this week, the Senate select committee on intelligence voted to reduce sharply covert US aid to the Mujahedin, cutting roughly \$100 million (£549 million) from the estimated \$300 million given last year.

The move, although far from final, reflected growing congressional frustration at the continued infighting among the rebel groups and the non-realisation of the administration's contention that the Mujahedin would swiftly overthrow the Kabul regime following the Soviet military withdrawal in February 1989.

Moscow is under equal pressure to end the war. It is currently giving Kabul around \$300 million a month in economic and military aid, and the conflict is a barrier to further improvement of its relations with the United States and the West.

The Pakistani government, fearing fundamentalist Mujahedin groups will attempt to stop the refugees forcibly, has ordered security forces to escort people to the frontier. After that, the families could be in danger if the Mujahedin seek to drive them back. The Peshawar-based Afghan Interim Government, made up of Mujahedin organisations, condemned the programme as illegal.

Officials involved in the project said the aim was to assist the "spontaneous and voluntary repatriation which is already taking place". There was no question of forcing people to leave. The programme would be reviewed in three months.

The most optimistic estimate is that several hundred thousand refugees could leave this year. Most officials believe the figure will be much lower. Some refugees in Iran are also believed to be held, might result in Dr Najibullah being returned to power.

Dr Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is widely detested but, as one US official said, "it is one of the very few organized entities in that fractious country and cannot be written off".

The refugees' hopes of going home rose this year because many Mujahedin leaders have negotiated peace deals with the Kabul government, often in return for money and arms.

But even in these areas deadly conflict between rebel groups remains. Returning refugees also face the danger of heavily armed bandits who roam the countryside.

FOR the first time in a decade, some of the five million Afghan refugees are packing their possessions on old lorries, tractors and vans and heading home to their war-ravaged country.

A trickle, growing by the day, has given Pakistan its first glimmer of hope that the burden of housing three million refugees — the other two million are in Iran — might start to ease.

But the procession of men, women and children is being fiercely opposed by fundamentalist Mujahedin groups and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which say that nobody should return until the *jihad* has established an Islamic government in Kabul.

Nevertheless, from Saturday nine official border points will be opened into Afghanistan, manned by officials of the Pakistan government and the United Nations, which are quietly encouraging the refugees' return. Each family will be given 3,300 rupees (£90), help with transportation and initial resettlement costs, and a three-month wheat ration of 660 lb.

Nobody knows how many people will take up the offer. Most will certainly choose to stay behind in the bleak refugee camps, given the risks of returning to a land that is being ruthlessly carved up into rural fiefdoms, each acutely suspicious of its neighbour and all heavily armed.

The repatriation programme will be launched initially in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province. The Pakistan government said it would allow the refugees to take all their household goods, personal belongings and food. They would be required to

hand in their ration cards, officially ending Pakistan's involvement with them.

Inside Afghanistan, UN officials have established a presence in areas where the refugees are most likely to settle, such as Herat and Kandahar. Western aid workers will be on hand to help with rebuilding homes, digging irrigation canals, planting crops and clearing minefields.

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Mr Baker said recently that there was only a "very, very narrow difference" remaining between Washington and Moscow on Afghanistan. The unspoken fear here, however, is that elections in Afghanistan, if and when they are held, might result in Dr Najibullah being returned to power.

Mr Baker said recently that he had faced the Chinese side with "fairly tough talking on Hong Kong and on human rights", and that he had not come to Peking "with a bundle of concessions".

British sources said it was unlikely that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, would visit China this year.

After their talks, Mr Maude claimed he and Mr Li had made progress on the two issues which have been bedeviling Britain's policy on Hong Kong. He said that Mr



Healing hands: a Liberian girl aged 11, wounded in fighting between government and rebel forces, receives treatment in Monrovia from a Liberian doctor and a Belgian doctor with Médecins sans Frontières.

## Refugees return to Afghanistan

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PESHAWAR

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## China praises 'friendly gestures' by Britain

From CATHERINE SAMSON IN PEKING

LI PENG, the Chinese prime minister, yesterday warmly greeted Francis Maude and said that China highly valued "the recent friendly gestures" made by Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister.

Mr Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office who was moved to the Treasury in the recent cabinet shuffle, is the first European Community minister to visit China since the Tiananmen Square massacre in June last year which led to an EC ban on high-level visits.

Mr Maude's talks with Mr Li yesterday broke the deadlock in bilateral relations which had virtually halted progress in the complex discussions on Hong Kong, which will come under Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Mr Maude said, however, that he had faced the Chinese side with "fairly tough talking on Hong Kong and on human rights", and that he had not come to Peking "with a bundle of concessions".

The refugees' hopes of going home rose this year because many Mujahedin leaders have negotiated peace deals with the Kabul government, often in return for money and arms.

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Li's criticisms of British legislation to grant passports to 250,000 Hong Kong citizens and of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights, both of which China resents, had been "relatively muted". He said that this was an "encouraging sign".

Mr Maude said there had been "not a trace of anger in this meeting from the Chinese side at all". Britain has been the butt of Chinese media attacks without replying in kind.

Mr Maude, however, expressed his displeasure at the attacks in the media and told Mr Li that there had been "too much ventilating of differences in public... we should try to resolve our differences in private".

Mr Maude described the meeting as very open and productive and said that while it had produced no dramatic results, he had been able to explain Britain's policies on Hong Kong. Mr Li had "shown understanding of the case we had put".

China has in the past reacted furiously towards the human rights request is not clear. Peking is normally infuriated by such requests, claiming that they amount to interferences in its domestic affairs. The observers believe Mr Li simply tolerated the request as a price to pay for improved relations with Britain and the EC.

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# US deploys its forces to deter attack on Kuwait

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON  
AS AMERICAN warships continued hastily arranged military exercises in the Gulf yesterday, it emerged that Washington had also sent air force support planes from Europe to assist jet fighters of the United Arab Emirates and further deter Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Officials said the intensified military activity was designed to demonstrate American support for the small Gulf nations and to signal that the United States would, if necessary, use force to ensure the continued flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

"We are not getting into the Open business," said one official, referring to disputes among Middle East oil producers about production quotas and price levels. "Our concern is free access to oil. We are making a modest move to indicate our state."

Another said: "We are not going to war, but you are going to see exercises and you are going to see ships."

Of the four frigates, one destroyer and one command ship in the US Middle Eastern force, two are said to be deployed in the northern Gulf waters off Kuwait while the other four have taken up stations further south.

In addition, two US KC135 tankers and a C141 cargo plane carrying maintenance and support equipment flew out from West Germany. They are said to be conducting air-to-ground communications and refuelling exercises, the latter enhancing the ability of the UAE's Mirage fighters to conduct surveillance flights and to defend their off-shore oil installations against any Iraqi bombing raid.

These are said to be the first joint exercises openly undertaken between UAE and US forces, and the UAE reportedly asked for them over the weekend when the scale of the Iraqi threat became apparent.

In Washington, Iraq's latest muscle-flexing is exacerbating congressional distaste for a

nation which until two years ago the US was supporting in its war against Iran. Since then congressmen have been appalled by Baghdad's relentless military build-up, its drive to develop long-range missiles and nuclear weapons, its use of chemical weapons, its human rights abuses and the highly inflammatory comments of President Saddam Hussein towards Israel.

Several bills are before both houses of Congress seeking a range of sanctions against Iraq. The US still gives Iraq around \$800 million (£440 million) a year in commodity and import-export credits. A measure unanimously approved by the Senate banking committee last week would cut this assistance and ban the export to Iraq of any goods that could assist its military-industrial complex.

A similar measure has been passed by the Senate foreign relations committee. "There is a growing sentiment on Capitol Hill that something needs to be done... that we should, at the minimum, stop this assistance," said a Senate aide.

• ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates yesterday denied a US State Department report that the two countries were conducting joint military manoeuvres in the Gulf.

"There are no joint military manoeuvres or exercises between UAE and American military forces and all reports and comments to date on the matter are an unjustified exaggeration," an official spokesman quoted by the WAM news agency said.

But the UAE spokesman said the Emirates conducted routine military exercises at this time of year to improve their forces' capabilities.

He said the US announcement earlier this week that US forces were engaged in a small-scale exercise referred to a pre-arranged technical training programme unrelated to the current tensions.

Can Opec survive? page 10



Peace gesture: President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and President Mubarak embracing in Baghdad where the Egyptian leader had flown in an effort to ease Gulf tension

## Damascus hostage pledge

From REUTER IN DAMASCUS

GERALD Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, left for home yesterday with assurances from Syria that it is trying to obtain the release of the 13 Western hostages in Lebanon, three of whom are Britons.

Mr Kaufman, who had talks with Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president, and Farouk al-Shara, the country's foreign minister, described his visit as "fruitful and constructive", adding "I found full understanding from Syrian

officials and I was promised that they will exert every effort possible to secure the release of hostages."

Syria, the main foreign power in Lebanon, maintains good ties with Iran and has in the past played a key role in obtaining the release of several hostages. Tehran backs the Hezbollah group, which is believed to be holding most of the hostages.

• SIDON: Israel has reinforced its self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, sources said. (Reuters)

where Shia Muslim militias are fighting each other, security sources said yesterday. They said a column of about thirty Israeli military vehicles, including Merkava tanks and American-made M113 armoured personnel carriers, crossed into Lebanese territory late on Tuesday and took up positions in the security zone.

Israeli troops also brought 155mm and 175mm artillery batteries into the area, the sources said. (Reuters)

## Experts believe Iraq will stop short of invasion

By ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE consensus among Middle East experts yesterday was that Iraq would not invade Kuwait, but could succeed in forcing it to cut oil production.

That view was reinforced by reports that President Saddam Hussein had told President Mubarak of Egypt that he had no plans to invade.

However, Sir Anthony Parsons, a former British ambassador to Iran, pointed out the experts had been wrong in 1980, when Baghdad began to threaten Tehran. "I was at the United Nations and from that vantage point we were very conscious of tension rising. The consensus was that it was sabre-rattling, but it turned out that it was not."

Iraq has always denied that it started the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, and it is true that there was provocation. However, Sami al-Khalil, an Iraqi author, says in his book, *Republic of Fear*, that President Saddam began planning in the spring of 1980 for the invasion which came that September.

Valerie Yorke, author of *The Gulf in the 1980s*, doubted that Iraq was planning an attack, but pointed out that President Saddam was apt to do the opposite of whatever the Western press predicted. If there was much speculation that he was merely sabre-rattling, he might use military force. It seemed unlikely that he would launch an invasion, but an attack on specific targets could not be ruled out.

Heino Kopietz, a senior Middle East analyst of Control Risks Information Service in London, said General Saddam's tactics amounted to extortion. "There is a minimal risk of conflict," he said.

Iraq had made its aims clear by demanding \$2.4 billion (£1.3 billion) and direct talks with Kuwait. It had revived its old border dispute with Kuwait to strengthen its case.

The Kuwaiti forces were well-equipped but lacked experience, never having fought in a war. Any contest between the two would be a "walkover" for Iraq, he said. "The Kuwaitis would not be able to hold out for more than a few hours."

Their tanks were old and would be irrelevant against

## Saddam rhetoric 'may lead to war'

From OUR CORRESPONDENT  
IN JERUSALEM

MOSHE Arens, the Israeli defence minister, has warned that threats by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq were raising the prospect of war in the Middle East.

In remarks published widely yesterday in Israeli newspapers, Mr Arens said he feared "Saddam Hussein's rhetoric may get out of his control".

He was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee earlier this week that he had made the same statement last week during meetings in Washington with Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary.

Mr Arens's remarks are the latest of a number of warnings by Israel since President Saddam said in a speech on April 2 that he would retaliate against Israel if Iraq or any other Arab countries were threatened.

"Those who are threatening us with nuclear bombs, we warn them that we will hit them with binary chemical weapons," he said. "I also say that, if Israel dares to hit even one piece of steel on any industrial site, we will make the fire eat half of Israel."

Talks on what level of defence funding the Jewish state will receive next year are taking place in Washington. Israel is concerned about several proposals that could cut its \$3 billion (£1.76 billion) annual allotment, including \$1.8 billion for purely military purposes.

Mr Arens said: "When I was defence minister six years ago, Saddam Hussein and his army were busy conducting a war against Iran. Now the war is over and, with its end, his style has also apparently changed."

Earlier this month Major-General Amnon Shahak, Israel's chief of military intelligence, told a news conference that Israel took President Saddam's threats seriously. "There is no red light situation in the region, but perhaps we are in a situation of a green light turning yellow." He added: "Words do have an influence."

## Boesak seeking divorce

Johannesburg — Allan Boesak, the South African Coloured clergyman and anti-apartheid activist, who has admitted to an extra-marital affair with a white television producer, yesterday announced that he is resigning from the ministry immediately and seeking a divorce. (Ray Kennedy writes).

Dr Boesak and Elm Botha, who is married to a local television presenter, said their marriages were breaking down before they met in January and that they would continue to see each other. Dr Boesak indicated that he would now be involving himself further in politics.

### Britons lost

Two British men, Philip Beadle, a teacher in the Seychelles, and Norman Roberts, who was on holiday visiting him there, are feared to have drowned after failing to return from a fishing trip three weeks ago.

### Teeth survey

Oslo — Norwegian scientists are collecting children's milk teeth in an attempt to assess the public health ramifications of environmental pollution in Eastern Europe. Children from Poland, Hungary and East Germany are involved, and the Soviet Union is thought likely to co-operate.

### Fiji constitution

Sava — Fiji has adopted a constitution that guarantees indigenous Melanesian Fijians a legislative majority, a move that had been vehemently condemned by the largely Indian-backed opposition coalition. (AP)

### Chairman goes

Kourou, French Guiana — The chairman of Western Europe's space rocket maker, Ariane-space, said he was resigning to take up a new post with the French company Matra. Frédéric D'Aleste announced his resignation after an Ariane rocket was launched from French Guiana. (Reuters)

### Cubans leave

Havana — Three Cubans who took refuge in the Swiss embassy here on Sunday have left the compound and have been escorted to their homes by embassy staff. The embassy had been given guarantees by the Cuban authorities that the three would not face any prosecution. (AP)

## Baghdad's firepower puts its neighbour in the shade

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the Iraqi military build-up on the border with Kuwait may be just sabre-rattling, there is no doubt that Baghdad has for years had a contingency plan for attacking its neighbour. In the words of one defence expert, it was "just a question of taking it off the shelf and dusting it down".

Iraq is extensively equipped. Throughout the eight-year war with Iran, Baghdad acquired huge stocks of equipment and, despite some heavy losses in the conflict, the military forces are still over-supplied with weapons, missiles and armour.

The military already will have rehearsed many times over the years the strategy for invading Kuwait. Before Iraq took military action against Iran, the army had practised surprise attacks based on Soviet tactical manoeuvres.

Across the border into Kuwait it is all desert and there are no heavy military emplacements like those built by Iran to counter Iraqi offensives. The Iranian soldiers were well dug in, largely to avoid artillery barrages, which was why the Iraqis turned to

chemical weapons to destroy the emplacements.

Throughout the eight years the Iraqis acquired considerable expertise in large-scale operations, with all the appropriate staff work carried out in the manner of a professional Western army. This experience has given the Iraqis a combat capability that could not be matched by the Kuwaitis, even if they were not outnumbered in both manpower and equipment. The Kuwaiti army has no operational experience.

In a straight comparison, Iraq has total armed forces of a million, which includes an army of 955,000 and an air force of 40,000. Kuwait has 20,300 men, with an army of 16,000, an air force of 2,200 and a navy of 2,100.

Baghdad has about 5,500 main battle tanks, mostly Soviet and Chinese, of which about 10 per cent are Soviet T72s and 20 per cent T62s. They have 2,500 T54s and T55s. The Iraqis also have 3,000 self-propelled and 3,000 towed artillery pieces, including the South African G5 155mm howitzer which

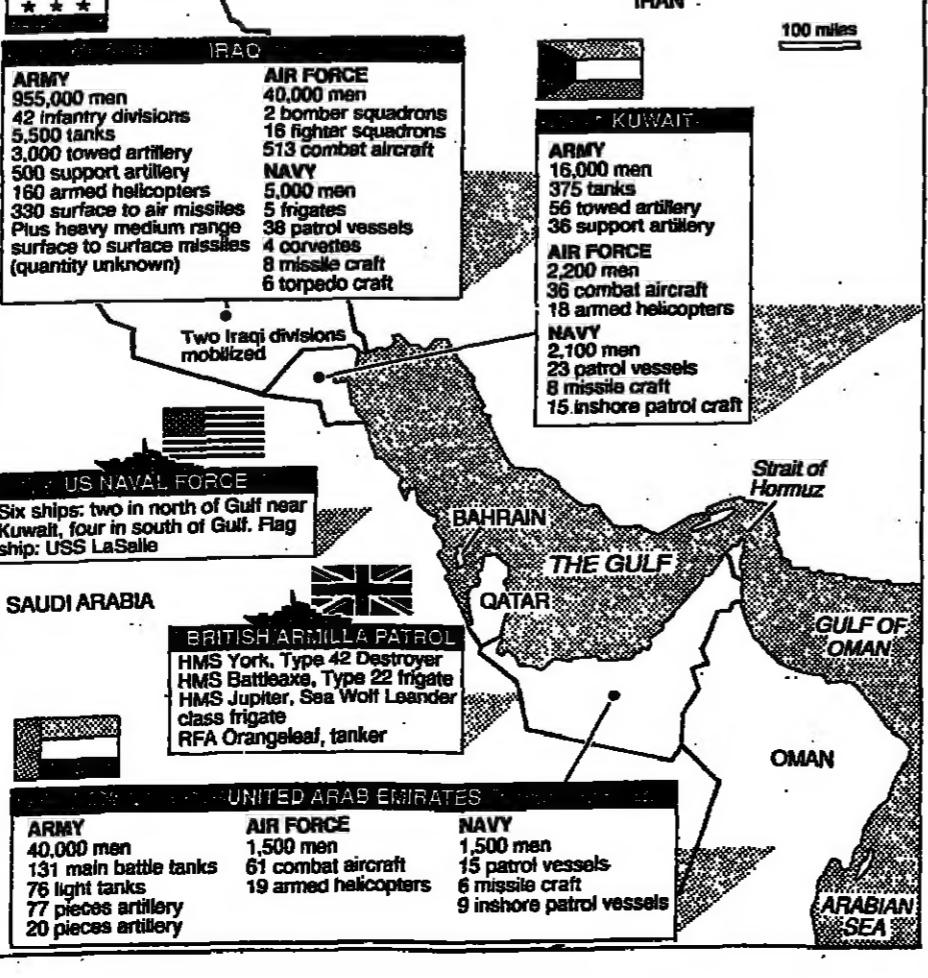
was designed by Gerald Bull, the Canadian-born scientist murdered last March.

Kuwait has only 275 main battle tanks, all of them British, including 40 old Centurions and 165 Chieftains. Its artillery stocks consist of 56 towed and 36 self-propelled systems. Kuwait recently formed an extra brigade but no extra tanks were bought to equip the units.

In the past 12 months Iraq has taken into service 12 Soviet MiG29 fighter aircraft, recognised in the West as one of the most effective combat planes in the world. These fighters were added to an inventory that consists of some 513 combat aircraft, including 70 MiG23s and 64 French Mirages, some equipped with Exocet missiles and in-flight refuelling capability.

Kuwait has an air force of 36 combat aircraft, including 24 American A4 Skyhawks, to be replaced by F18s.

The navies bear little comparison. Kuwait has just 23 patrol and coastal combatants, including eight missile craft. Iraq has five frigates and 15 inshore patrol craft.



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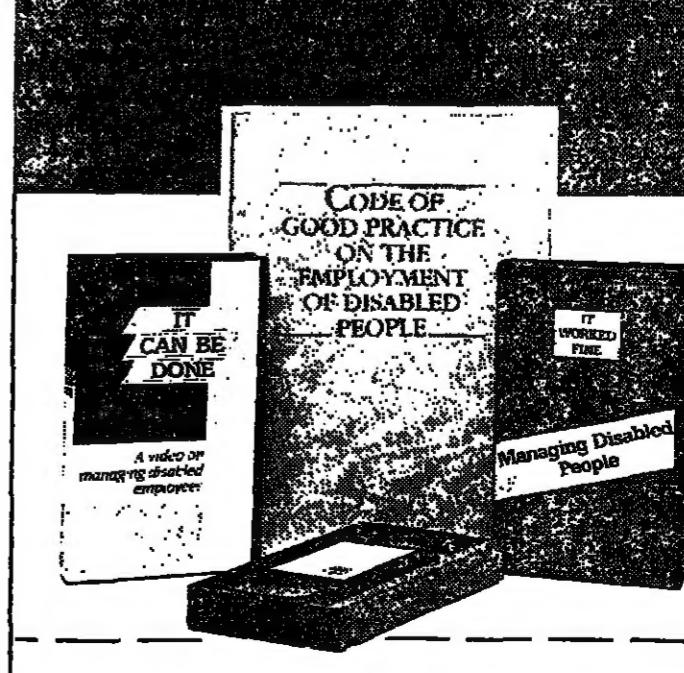
The Code will provide you with helpful information on policy, legal obligations, recruitment, integration, training and career development.

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## A BATTLE SHIRKED

Know your enemy. A nation's defence must be based on its capacity to defend its enemies. From this definition arises a scale of priorities, and from these priorities arise expenditure. Without priority, armies, navies and air forces are just extravagances, gestures of machismo, manifestations of service inertia.

Not since the second world war has thinking about the defence of Britain been thrown into such confusion as following the events in Eastern Europe in the past six months. The 45-year-old enemy, the Warsaw Pact, has been beaten in one of history's great victories, great because so little blood was spilled to achieve it.

But the defeat has not been sealed by any ceasefire or treaty or settlement. The enemy has simply rolled over exhausted, vindicating the we-can-out-spend-their theory of military deterrence. The Warsaw Pact is defunct and the ideological aggression which lay behind its formation has evaporated. The days of the forcible propagation of Comintern imperialism are over. Without the pact, surprise aggression would be difficult to mount – even on the worst case assumption that Greater Russia could recover from its severe domestic difficulties and seek to reassert regional or even global hegemony. The West would have warning, and time to rebuild its defences.

How to react to this traumatic, if happy, revolution has led in recent months to an exciting and important division of approach within Britain's defence establishment. On the one hand is the cautious faction, typified by the prime minister's eagerness to continue with the modernising of Nato and in fierce lobbying by defence spokesmen. To them, the suddenness of the Warsaw Pact's demise and the instability of the Soviet Union dictates a policy of wait-and-see. The fundamentals of East-West defence planning should not change, yet, Russia remains an unknown political entity, its vast army still in place.

By all means let Nato rethink the central European theatre, says this faction, but not at the expense of a lowered guard. Not surprisingly, this view has wide support from the services, the defence industries and the navy and ordnance constituencies. Those of a conservative temperament everywhere can take relief in the view that the world is not better, it is much the same. Difficult questions can be shelved by the doctrine of unripe time.

On the other hand are the radicals, championed by the junior defence minister, Alan Clark (no left-winger), by "peace dividend" lobbyists, and by such thoughtful contributions as this week's report from the Safer World foundation, which said Britain's defence budget could be slashed by a half. To them, the concept of a threat to Britain's defences has irrevocably changed over the past year – indeed has been changing unnoticed for a decade of Soviet decay – and with it the basis of the defence debate.

Britain has won and lost enemies throughout its history: Spain in the 16th century, France in the 19th, Germany in the first half of the 20th. Now it has seen off the Warsaw Pact. Who will be the next enemy? Whence will emanate the threat? What weapons are required to meet it? These questions must be addressed quickly, because not just billions of hard-earned pounds are at stake, but the proper defence of the nation too.

On this argument, defence planning is now risking the oldest failing in the military book: that of fighting the last war but one. To continue to plan for a massive conventional battle in central Europe would be ludicrous: a review worth its salt would not have rested content with reducing force strengths in West Germany, but would have changed the entire balance and character of the forces accordingly. New weapons systems in the pipeline, such as the European Fighter Aircraft or more type-23 frigates or the Chieftain replacement tank, planned with East-West conflict in mind, will take ten years to realise. This is absurd in the light of what is now known of likely threats.

Technological and political change has collapsed the priority still given to large standing armies and navies, much of whose operational thinking is still pre-Cold War. The radicals ask whether expensive fighter planes are still necessary, or large carrier groups.

## PARLIAMENT OF THE ABSURD

As they leave Westminster this afternoon, MPs should vow to end the arcane tradition of all-night sittings during the week before the long summer recess. To keep the Commons in session for 19 hours on end, wasting public money and harming MPs' health just to let half a dozen MPs dig information out of ministers, is blatantly inefficient. If boorish behaviour diminishes the reputation of individual MPs, such botched conduct of what they like to call "the nation's business" detracts from the reputation of the Commons as a whole.

"Procedure," a distinguished constitutional historian once wrote, "is the only constitution the poor Briton has" and parliamentary procedure (which is Protean in form while fixed in its objective of enabling the elected Commons to call the executive to account) is the best guardian we have of the subject's liberty. The trouble starts with the Commons' predilection for performing one function when it is formally fulfilling another.

The Consolidated Fund bill that occasions these end-of-term marathons is a part of the Commons' grant of annual financial supply to the government. Formally, the second reading asserts the Commons' authority over money, but in practice the bill passes automatically. Instead, MPs use the bill's second reading to raise various topics with ministers, in a series of 90-minute debates.

For the few MPs actively engaged, this doubtless is a laudable exercise in making ministers properly accountable. For the rest, waiting wearily to register their votes on a three-line whip in the small hours of the morning, it is a grotesque waste of time. The physical atmosphere in the generally ill-ventilated Palace of Westminster is bad enough without that. The frayed tempers of MPs, torn between their constituencies, their

should we not spend money on purely defensive systems, on smart weapons, on electronic quality not human quantity? Depending on the answers to these questions, between a quarter and a half of Britain's annual defence bill could be saved over the next decade, yielding a huge peace dividend of up to £24 billion.

Tom King, the defence secretary, has certainly made an effort to resolve this dichotomy. The closeness of Britain's defence establishment, the growing fusion of service planning and years of Treasury pressure have greatly improved the quality of thinking in Whitehall. Britain is regarded as more able to conduct a radical defence review than the service-dominated ministries of most Nato countries – or ought to be.

However, the five-year plan, Options for Change, published yesterday shows that the dichotomy has not been resolved. Even given due allowance for the need to consult Britain's Nato allies, the cautious faction has clearly triumphed. In emphasising (correctly) the importance of "the safe protection of our country", Mr King significantly added the "fair consideration of those whose task that is". The defence chiefs have indeed been considered. Mr King's message is that any recasting of Britain's defence posture must await events in Moscow over the next five years – cynics might add, events in Downing Street as well.

Radicalism has conceded victory to Whitehall's traditional pragmatism, as represented by defence chiefs who saw their establishments and weapons projects threatened by Mr Clark and his friends. In delegations to see the prime minister, in dozens of letters to *The Times*, in the blood-spattered corridors of Whitehall, the army, navy and air force have found common cause. Another hated "defence review" has been fought off. The intellectuals who constantly seek to "rethink" Britain's defence posture, and who this year had common sense on their side, have been sent packing. The services have returned to the familiar game of doing annual battles with the Treasury.

Without rethinking, this annual battle can now have no meaning. The Treasury is being asked to supply funds to fight a near-inconceivable war, and has responded in the only way it knows how, by telling the defence chiefs that they can continue with the Cold War but must, to put it crudely, do so less 10 percent. If the defence ministry is not prepared to offer up new priorities, then good old Procrustes must be summoned once more, lopping bits of here and stretching them there until the annual public spending requirements have been satisfied.

The result has been the proposals – hardly "options" – served up by Mr King yesterday: a 10-15 per cent cut in warship numbers (with no cuts in aircraft carriers or Tridents), a halving of the Rhine army, an 18 per cent reduction in service manpower overall, no change in "out of area" defence commitments, a small reduction in Tornado squadrons. There was no questioning of the future of fighters, or manned tanks, or aircraft carriers (which have survived every defence review since the decision was taken to phase them out in the 1960s). While Mr King certainly implied further thinking "in a Nato context" on force reductions, he was scrupulous in protecting the favoured projects of each of his services.

Mr King has cleverly dressed up old-style defence planning by Treasury pressure as a response to the "new realities" of East-West diplomacy. But his is defence planning by Treasury pressure none the less. He has given no glimpse of the debate within his department this past year. He has not dared to question military priorities. He has not indicated what he means by his catchphrase "smaller but better". He has made the minimum cuts that might be considered defensible, not on the battlefields of Europe or in the corridors of the Kremlin, but in cabinet conclave before voracious colleagues.

What this means is simple. The same battle will have to occur again next year, and the year after, and the year after that, until somebody comes along and asks what forces, and what money, are really needed to defend Britain in the 21st century.

## A view of history

From Professor E. J. Hobsbawm, FBA

Sir Readers will judge for themselves how far Jonathan Clark's farago represents my *Echoes of the Marseillaise* (Saturday Review, July 21). I only write to correct two obvious misreadings. In rejecting "the theorists who see all reality purely as a material construction beyond which analysis cannot penetrate" I am partly not arguing for Marxism but for any history which believes that we can say something about what really happened and why. And I am quite specifically not identifying "the values on which modern civilisation has been built since the American Revolution" with

Occasional all-night sittings, as an Opposition resists a government measure, do have a political function. The closure and the guillotine, invented at the end of the last century to deal with Irish disruption of parliamentary business, have given the government control of the Commons' timetable. The Opposition can bring some pressure to bear by trying to deny the government some of that time.

But the pantomime accompanying the Consolidated Fund bill is something apart. If MPs deserve the opportunity to question ministers, they should be enabled to do so in civilised hours. The present procedure is plain eccentricity, an indulgence in antique forms for their own sake. No commercial business, nationalised industry or local council would conduct itself. Although parliamentary politics, moved by passion and prejudice as well as by reasoned argument, should not be restricted by the chilly calculus of profit and loss, that hardly justifies rules of play which invite derision. The Commons should change them.

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## Easing London's travel problems

From Sir Keith Bright

Sir, Parkinson's new Red Route law (report, July 24) risks founders on Parkinson's old law, which in this context indicates that traffic expands to fit the available road space. May I propose a simple modification that requires only a little political will and sensible use of the proposed (and very welcome) new Londonwide traffic directorate?

Peak-hour passengers living in London or arriving at British Rail termini need moving quickly to their destinations. The quickest way at present is by Underground, but stations often have to be closed now because of overcrowding. Meanwhile the poor old buses languish in traffic jams overground. Why not use buses to operate the equivalent of a rush-hour train service, on designated routes which approximately follow the Underground lines?

These routes would often be complex. Why not try it on one or two routes where underground overcrowding is at its worst and see what happens? The Central Line could be attacked first by running express buses between Liverpool Street and St Paul's from 7.30 am until 9.30 am, and from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

A simple solution, then, to a complex problem. Why not try it on one or two routes where underground overcrowding is at its worst and see what happens? The Central Line could be attacked first by running express buses between Liverpool Street and St Paul's from 7.30 am until 9.30 am, and from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH BRIGHT  
(Chairman, London Transport, 1982-83),  
16 Westbourne Park Villas, W2.

July 25.

to all publishers at a nominal sum so that all publications can carry the information that the public

Furthermore, viewers of BBC and ITV on the Continent have access, through local magazines, to weekly listings supplied direct and free by BBC and ITV companies. It seems extraordinary that BBC and ITV viewers on mainland Europe have a better service, from their listings papers than do those who pay for the services.

In the House of Lords on Thursday (July 26) peers will debate amendments to the Broadcasting Bill, from Lord Annan and Lord Stockton, which will ensure that UK consumers will have a real choice of TV listings information at a reasonable price. The NCC hopes that these amendments will have wide support.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE HEALY, Director, National Consumer Council, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1. July 24.

## BBC policy on music

From Mr Duncan Rutter

Sir, I hope that Richard Morrison's timely comments on the role of the BBC house orchestras (article, July 20) will convince even the BBC's musical establishment that opposition to its orchestral policies is not confined to Phillips and tone-deaf accountants.

Every independent orchestra in London as well as the provinces has suffered in recent years from reductions in broadcasting time. Has the BBC ever attempted to find out whether the listening public wants to hear relatively little of our independent orchestras so that their house orchestras can fill up their time-slots at the TV licence-payer's expense?

The cost of high licence fees for weekly TV listings will have to be passed on to the consumer. In effect readers who have never chosen to buy *Radio Times* or *TV Times* but choose to buy a newspaper with TV listings will be taxed by the owners of *TV Times* and *Radio Times*.

The result has been the proposals – hardly "options" – served up by Mr King yesterday: a 10-15 per cent cut in warship numbers (with no cuts in aircraft carriers or Tridents), a halving of the Rhine army, an 18 per cent reduction in service manpower overall, no change in "out of area" defence commitments, a small reduction in Tornado squadrons. There was no questioning of the future of fighters, or manned tanks, or aircraft carriers (which have survived every defence review since the decision was taken to phase them out in the 1960s). While Mr King certainly implied further thinking "in a Nato context" on force reductions, he was scrupulous in protecting the favoured projects of each of his services.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Change of heart on European law

From Mr Dennis Thompson

Sir, Lord Denning (report, July 17) is attacking the European Court of Justice. When Alan Campbell (now Lord Campbell of Alloway) and I produced in 1962 what was, I believe, the first commentary on the Rome Treaty in English, Lord Denning was good enough to write a foreword. While in no way diminishing our gratitude for this, it is fair to refer to what he wrote in the course of it:

How are we to make the Treaty part of our English law? Are we to have a short Act of Parliament with the Treaty attached to it saying it is to be law? If so, we have a problem ahead, because our courts do not interpret treaties as others do. We do not look at *travaux préparatoires*. And if the Treaty is made part of our law in that way, our courts will be faced with the well-nigh impossible task of saying how far the Treaty abrogates our own statute and common law. The last word on the Treaty will rest, not with our courts, not even with the House of Lords, but with the Court of Justice at Luxembourg.

July 20.

This particular visit was arranged in full cooperation with the company concerned and served to provide further information in relation to a current case.

Mr Taylor's letter also refers to the European insurance market. He is apparently not aware of the changes which are now taking place. The German market is indeed "opening up" as Sir Leon Brittan said in his recent *Times* article (July 18). Substantial progress was made with the coming into force of the second non-life directive at the beginning of July: ministers are on the point of deciding on substantial new progress on life assurance; and we are confident of creating a genuine single market in this sector by the end of 1992.

Yours etc.,  
CLAUS-DIETER EHLERMANN,  
Director General (Competition),  
Commission of the European Communities.

July 23.

It should benefit all parties for Muslims to have a representative body that would represent their interests to the proper authority every time a dispute arose. As Muslims are not a race, Islam being a universal religion like Christianity or Buddhism, they are not, unlike Jews, who are adherents of a race-based religion like Shintoism or Hinduism, protected under the provisions of the Race Relations Act.

As someone concerned professionally in the teaching of comparative religion I cannot sufficiently deplore the ignorance of that subject betrayed by our legislators in both Houses when they framed the act. They should have known that religions are of two types, ethnic and universal, and not discriminated unfairly in favour of one type against the other.

Yours faithfully,  
YAQUB ZAKI (adviser on comparative religion), Muslim Institute, 6 Endsleigh Street, WC1.

July 24.

### Muslim attitudes

From Dr Yaqub Zaki

Sir, Dr Kaliq Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute (reports, July 16, 18; letter, July 23) did not call for a separate Muslim "parliament" when he spoke at London University on July 14. He said:

We cannot establish a territorial Islamic state in Britain... But what we can do is the next best thing: we can now create a range of institutions in Britain that will protect us from predatory forces and develop our distinctive culture and identity.

This is precisely what the Jews have done with the Board of Deputies, which functions as a non-legislative government (of Jews) in the UK. Likewise, in the Church of England Synod, Anglicans have what is virtually a tri-cameral parliament (episcopate, clergy and laity), occupying itself with matters of church government, but sometimes pronouncing on other issues as well.

It is difficult to see how any reasonable person could object to Muslims having the same; indeed

### St Helena's pride

From Mr Antony Wild

Sir, Lord Shackleton and others (July 23) are quite correct to point out our obligations to St Helena, but in my experience there is more cause for optimism than their letter would suggest.

I have had the good fortune to import the entire one-tonne coffee crop of the island for the last year, and as a result have come into contact with many individuals and organisations concerned with St Helena, all of whom have displayed great enthusiasm and energy in helping to put the neglected colony back on the map.

I have been touched by the obvious pride which the islanders have taken in the fact that something they have produced has been sold back to the mother country. No amount of taxpayers' money, wasted or wisely spent, could give them that.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; PERSONAL

I pray that Christ will make his love known in your hearts through faith. I trust that you may have your roots and foundation in love. In love, Ephesians 3: 17 G.N.B.

## BIRTHS

**ARKWRIGHT** - On July 24th, to Anne-Louise and Charles, a daughter, Rebecca.

**ARMOTT** - On July 24th, to Kathy and Stephen, at The Wellington, a son, Christopher.

**BOLESWORTH** - On July 24th, at The Portland Hospital, London, a son, and a daughter, Philippa.

**BOURNE** - On Friday July 20th 1990, at The Portland Hospital, London, a son, Sarah and Bruce, a daughter, Philippa, a sister for Lauren.

**COTTER-BRISTON** - On July 24th, at The Portland Hospital, Maternity Hospital, to Alice, a son, Farleigh and Simon, a son, Archibald, Charles, a brother, for Eleanor and Frederick.

**COOPER** - On July 25th, to David and Linda, a son, and a daughter, Charlotte Ruth.

**DEW** - On July 13th, to Henry Burrow Taylor, the 10th Regiment, to Phillips Miller, a son, and a daughter, Sophie.

**FEARON** - On July 23rd, to Catherine and John, a son, Joel Stuart, a brother for Stephen, Christopher and Jack.

**FORRESTES** - On July 21st, 1990, at West Dorset Hospital, will take place at All Saints Church, Bisham, a near Richmond, Surrey, at 2.15pm on Thursday August 2nd, by private cremation.

**FRANCIS** - On Monday July 22nd, to Alison (nee Astor), a daughter, Victoria Lucy, a sister for Alexander.

**HAWKINS** - On July 20th, to Serafina and Amisla, a daughter, Francesca Josephine, a sister for Ben.

**HAZARD** - On July 5th 1990, at Poole Hospital, Dorset, to Jeffery, a daughter, Florence Victoria Lucy, a sister for Alastair.

**JACKSON-STOPS** - On July 24th, to Susie and Quentin, a son, George Frederick, a brother for Rose.

**MCNAUL** - On July 16th, to Cathleen, a son, and Donald, a beautiful daughter, Fiona Elizabeth Alison, a sister for Kristy.

**MORRISON** - On Monday July 23rd, to Joanne Gardner and Tim, a son, Thomas Aaron.

**NEEDHAM** - On July 16th, in memory of a son, David, and a daughter, a son, Nicholas John, a brother for Catherine.

**ONSTOTT** - On June 21st, to Richard and Pamela, a daughter, Yasmin Alexandra.

**PANTON** - On July 4th, to Lucy and Minderhoom and David, a son, and a daughter, David, a brother for Jack, Harry, Kate and Toby.

**PULFORD** - On July 13th 1990, to Annabel (nee Wilson) and Peter, a son, Richard James, a brother for Catherine.

**PURCELL** - On July 24th 1990, to Annabel (nee Wilson) and Peter, a son, Richard James, a brother for Catherine.

**REED** - On July 22nd, at Great Yarmouth Hospital, to Nicola (nee Bryant) and Martin, a daughter, Charlotte Henrietta Rose, a sister for William.

**SAVOURY** - On July 22nd, at The Portland Hospital, to Christopher and his daughter, Marion, a son, Thomas to Thomas.

**UNACKO** - On July 24th, to Julianne (nee Dunn) and James, a son, Peter Gerald Crofton.

**VASSE** - On July 23rd, to Janice (nee Dalton) and Craig, a son, James, a brother for Christopher, a son, Thomas to Thomas.

**WATKINS** - On July 24th, to Teresa and Jonathan, a son, Charles Thomas Jonathan.

**WATROBE** - On July 24th 1990, at Weymouth Maternity Hospital, to Janet (nee Thomas) and Geoffrey, a son, Christopher Thomas, first grandchild for Margaret.

**WILSON** - On July 22nd, to Rosemary, a son, Dominic, a son, Edward Hammesley, a brother for Freddie.

**ZIMATHY** - On July 23rd, at Plumfield, New Jersey, to Sophie (nee Huntington) and Steven, a daughter, Isabelle.

DIAMOND  
ANNIVERSARIES

**BOND** - **TRUELOVE** - Leslie and Bond, Mr and Mrs, married July 26th 1961. Devis Ringmer, Lewes SNS 500.

GOLDEN  
ANNIVERSARIES

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**HALL** - On July 23rd, Codrington Wolfe, aged 61, Headmaster of Broadfield, at home after many years, kind and dignified, deeply loved husband of Barbara and father of Christopher, Simon, Daniel, and Christopher. Funeral Service at St Mary Magdalene, Alfriston, on July 25th. A Memorial Service to be held at a later date. Private service at home. Donations to Cancer Research to F. Jennings and Son, St James' Hospital, London.

**HOLME** - On July 26th, to Dennis, a son, and a daughter, Barbara.

**HORN** - On July 26th, to Dennis, a son, and a daughter, Barbara.

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# The walls came tumbling down

The devastating earthquakes which hit Iran last month left up to 40,000 people dead and half a million homeless, while a massive earthquake in the Philippines last week killed more than a thousand. In Iran, the quake measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and in the Philippines 7.7.

On May 30, an earthquake, measuring 6.9 on the scale and centred in the East Carpathians, shook Romania and was felt in Moscow, 1,300 km away. Just one day earlier, northern Peru was rattled by a magnitude 6.3 quake, which set off mudslides and killed several hundred people.

The Richter scale is logarithmic, and each unit increase corresponds to a 10-fold increase in the size of the earthquake, so that a quake measuring 2 on the scale is ten times as big as a quake measuring 1, and a quake measuring 3 is 100 times greater.

The magnitude of the earthquake is important, but the destructive force of even a strong quake is greatly reduced if the motion is centred deep within the Earth's crust.

Although analysis of earthquakes is providing insights into the interior of the Earth and the movements of the planet's crust, earthquake prediction is still in its infancy.

Ancient Chinese wisdom suggests that animals can be sensitive detectors of coming earthquakes. Other popular theories rely on the statistics of past earthquakes, or

As the world is rocked by a series of recent earthquakes, Nina Morgan reports on a new method for predicting disaster



measuring very small movements in the Earth's crust.

Scientists from the British Geological Survey (BGS) are examining a theory conceived by Dr Stuart Crampin of the BGS and the department of geophysics at Edinburgh University, which suggests that monitoring a type of seismic wave generated by tiny earthquakes will allow large quakes to be predicted a few days in advance.

Another project, known as Mednet and headed by the National Geophysical Institute in

Rome, involves the setting up of a network of high resolution seismometers around the Mediterranean to examine seismic waves generated by small earthquakes. Many scientists see this network as an essential first step towards reliable earthquake prediction.

Despite public interest in prediction, some scientists question its value. Dr Robin Adams, of the International Seismological Centre in Thatcham, Berkshire, supports the idea that the best action against earthquakes is good defence. "You can't stop earthquakes from happening. What you have to do is to look at the probability of an earthquake occurring and construct buildings to withstand them," he says. Earthquakes do not kill, buildings do. "An earthquake is like a punch. If no one is there to take the punch it doesn't hurt."

Seismic risk is a term that combines the probability of an earthquake with factors such as population density, soil conditions and building codes. Dr Nick Ambrose, head of the engineering seismology section of the department of civil engineering at Imperial College in London, uses a simple equation to explain risk: Risk = hazard x vulnerability x specific value. Hazard is defined as our exposure to natural forces such as earthquakes. We can do nothing about these.

Vulnerability, an aspect over

which we do have control, is a measure of the likelihood of buildings collapsing, and is largely dependent on the local standards of construction and design.

The third term, specific value, is similar to a no-claims clause in a car insurance policy and represents a measure of how much risk we are prepared to assume.

In Britain the earthquake risk is small. Roger Musson of the Seismology Unit at the BGS says: "Earthquake risk in Britain is classified on the world scale as low to moderate. It's not severe, but it's not negligible".

Last April an earthquake measuring 5.1 — the largest this



Homeless: a peasant holds up his hands in despair after the Iranian earthquake left 500,000 people salvaging what they could from rubble.

century — hit Britain, centred at Clun, near Bishop's Castle in Shropshire. Damage was slight. Earthquakes are not uncommon in Britain and sizeable quakes were recorded in Shrewsbury in 1932, near Ludlow in 1926 and near Hereford in 1896 and 1924.

Most earthquakes are associated with movements at the boundaries of the tectonic plates which cover the Earth. But some, such as those in Britain, do occur in the middle of a plate.

The idea of plate tectonics, now more than 25 years old, provides

an explanation for many of the features of the Earth's surface, from mountain belts to ocean depths. Simply stated, the theory describes the surface of the Earth as being made up of a number of rigid plates which slide around and are deformed mainly at their edges.

The areas where plates come together are known as plate boundaries, and in geological terms these are where the actions, as a rule of thumb, whenever two plates meet, the Earth is bound to shake. The question is, not so much where — as when.

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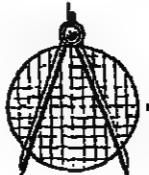
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Some companies are using secret psychological tests on job applicants, Leslie Tilley reports

Candidates for scientific and technical jobs are increasingly being given psychological tests before being hired. However, some senior industry figures are calling for standards to govern their use or rejecting them altogether.

Companies use psychometric tests as a means of introducing objectivity into their recruitment procedures and as a way of overcoming the limitations of the interview which has been criticised when used in isolation. Such tests are often employed when large numbers of candidates are being evaluated at the same time, for example during the milk round. They are also used in some cases when employees are being considered for internal promotion.

A survey by the Institute of Manpower Studies indicated that 42 per cent of companies responding used cognitive tests for scientific and technical staff and 27 per cent used personality tests for the same type of job.

Cognitive tests assess a range of abilities including intellectual, spatial, clerical and motor. Personality tests attempt to reveal information about traits such as values, perceptions, attitudes, preconceptions, prejudices and socialisation.

However, some businesses are having second thoughts about using such tests. Employers say that universities are increasingly preparing students for the milk round by giving them dummy tests similar to those used by employers. In many cases employers use the same tests.

"We do not use these tests as there are now too few tests being used by too many

# Would you pass the prison test?

I think we've got our man here.



employers," says Alan Havel, the graduate recruitment manager for the Oracle software firm. "Candidates' responses are not longer natural."

The Graduates' Career Advisory Service confirms that it has commissioned its own test to help students get into the "right frame of mind", says Dr Brian Putt, who is the director

of the Central Services Unit.

He says that specialists such as scientists and those applying for jobs where there are severe shortages, and hence fierce competition, find these tests irksome, particularly if all applicants are automatically

Jones, the manager of human resources development at ICL, which does use such tests for both internal and external appointments.

"If they do try to fix the answers, then it is in nobody's interest as they may be put into a job that is unsuitable for them. Psychometric tests are just one of the many different processes that recruits are exposed to. A decision is made on the totality of results, not just one on its own," he says.

Some firms are even using tests which purport to show whether a candidate has any latent criminal tendencies, an increasing worry for companies concerned at the rise in computer crime.

London-based Permantic says it has 300 companies using its psychometric tests. They were developed with the assistance of the prison services, according to Bruce Gifford, the managing director. Prisoners were tested and the results compared with those from non-criminals in an attempt to show up traits such as dishonesty.

"These tests are given to a job applicant as part of a battery of tests, as firms do not want staff to be aware of them in case they may take the answers," Mr Gifford says.

However, there is concern in some quarters that no statutory controls exist, and that standards should be formally introduced.

"Companies looking at such tests should be mindful of the scientific basis of that instrument. There are some extremely specious tests around and some of them leave something to be desired," Mr Jones says.

## Medical detectives crack coding of genetic disease

British researchers use computer models to fight cystic fibrosis

coded instructions needed for the body to produce a particular protein. Like all proteins, the one produced by the cystic fibrosis gene is made of amino-acid building blocks linked in a long chain.

By reading off the sequence in which different kinds of amino acids appear in the chain and comparing it with the sequences of other proteins, it was discovered that the cystic fibrosis protein shares features with a family of so-called transport proteins.

These transporters, lodged in cell membranes, pump substances out of the cells. One is specially developed by some cancer cells to produce chemotherapy drugs which would otherwise destroy them and another is deployed by certain strains of the malarial parasite to eject chloroquine.

The snag is that most proteins are notoriously difficult to isolate, let alone crystallise. Computer models, although not nearly as reliable as X-ray pictures of the real thing, can provide researchers with at least a rough sketch.

With the cystic fibrosis protein, the sketch suggests how the protein might work in a healthy individual and how defects might stop it from working in a patient with cystic fibrosis. Details of the research, published in today's *Nature* magazine, exploit a breakthrough made last year when scientists at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and at Michigan University tracked down the cystic fibrosis gene.

Like any gene, it carries the

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

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## MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

## Water on the mind?

Neither the 27th edition of *Marindale*, nor the 14th edition of *Merck Manual*, textbooks which can usually be relied upon to provide facts, figures, signs and symptoms of most of the ills of mankind, mentions aluminium poisoning. The only well-authenticated mass outbreak, during the second

world war, seems to have been due to aluminium dust in German munitions factory workers, who suffered lung fibrosis and recurrent spontaneous pneumothorax (Shavers disease).

It is not surprising that doctors disagree as to whether the inhabitants of Camelot, Cornwall, whose water supply was laced with 20 tons of aluminium sulphate in June 1988, have suffered brain damage, and, if so, whether it will be permanent.

The evidence, released this week, of the independent survey, contradicts the official Clayton report, published last year. The independent researchers, while accepting that the toxic level required to cause mental disturbance is unknown, reported that they had found mild to moderate changes in the memory, ability to think rapidly, and intellectual flexibility in Camelot residents; one scientist also detected

heightened aggression. Although these are the classic symptoms of minimal brain damage, they could also be accounted for by anxiety or depression, as was suggested in the Clayton report.

Furthermore, when aluminium toxicity causes bone disease in patients with renal failure, it seems to be the water used dialysis, rather than that which is drunk, which is significant. One important finding of the independent research workers was that when 32 Camelot residents were compared to a matched control group, 75 per cent of the residents showed memory defects, but none of the controls.

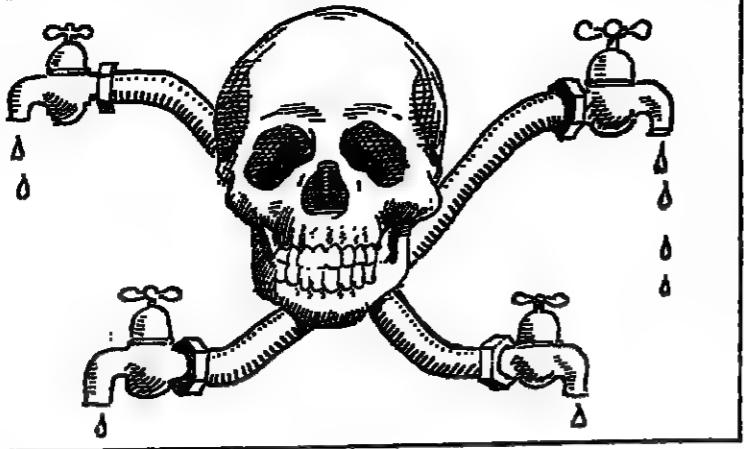
Examples of mass anxiety or hysteria are common in both schoolchildren and factory workers, who have been known to collapse en masse with nausea and faintness. Likewise, hysterical symptoms can sweep through a pop concert, as in Beatelemania.

But, even so, it is a firm rule in medicine that psychological causes for diseases can only be deemed of account once all possible physical explanations have been excluded.

As so little is known about the effects of aluminium poisoning on intellect, it was perhaps premature to dismiss the symptoms of the Camelot residents as being due to anxiety, particularly as a year after the incident the levels of aluminium in their blood was still surprisingly high.

Anxiety about the long-term effects of aluminium toxicity on the brain has been increased by research over the past few years, which has demonstrated a greater concentration of aluminium in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's than other elderly people.

FRANCIS MOSLEY



## Hazards of an MP's lifestyle

Michael Carr, the recently elected member for Bootle, who died, aged 43, at the weekend, apparently of a heart attack, must have had mixed feelings when he rose during question time last week: anxiety that he would fluff his lines, matched by pleasure at having the opportunity to reassure his supporters on Merseyside that he had not disappeared into the Westminster machine. A doctor sitting opposite remarked on his extreme pallor.

This may have been a manifestation of his trepidation, or it may have been the first sign of the attack, and might well have been dismissed as being no more than extreme tiredness or indigestion. Either way, prime minister's question time seems to have removed speculation about MP's lives.

A detailed survey of mortality in the House, carried out about 20 years ago, dispels some illusions: it found that, in general, MPs lived longer, and had less disease, than might be expected when they were compared with a control group matched for age and background. The exception to this rule was members in their first parliament, particularly if they had vulnerable majorities.

It seems that the strains of starting a parliamentary career are manifold: new

members are stressed by the strangeness of their surroundings and by their new-found lack of importance in the system, despite having previously enjoyed prominence in their own communities; they mourn the separation from their families, the total disruption of their personal life, and are anxious about losing their seat in

the next election. Once over the hurdle of fighting their first general election as a member, they become assured and, research showed, were then set to have a longer innings than they could have hoped for had they not gone to Westminster, despite its bizarre hours, heavy eating and drinking, and lack of weekend rest.

## The summer of the sick horses

Strangles is an unpleasant disease that affects horses. An epidemic sweeping through parts of east Anglia is destroying the rural way of life, by disrupting the summer round of gymkhana and pony club rallies. The disease is interesting, because attention has recently been concentrated on animal diseases transmissible to humans, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from cows, salmonella from chickens, listeria from cheese, toxoplasmosis (causing foetal abnormalities) from cats. Humans, by carrying the bacteria on their clothes and unwashed hands, disseminate the organism *Streptococcus equi* from horse to horse, giving them the strangles.

The *Streptococcus* attacks the lymph glands around the neck and jaw; the glands swell monstrously before finally breaking down to form a necklace of

discharging ulcers. The lymphatic glands inside the abdominal cavity can also be affected to cause, in doctor's jargon, a mesenteric adenitis, described in veterinary terminology rather more directly as "bastard strangles", because the cause of the animal's abdominal pain and distress is concealed.

Although human streptococcal sore throats are rare in hot weather, Colin Vogel, a veterinary surgeon from Fakenham in Norfolk, and one of the profession's spokesmen on equine diseases, said he did not think that the minor heatwave had helped to spread *Streptococcus equi* other than by encouraging a greater number of entries at horse shows. In his view, the incidence of strangles was cyclical. An outbreak occurred when the level of immunity in the horse population in a district fell to a certain point.

*Streptococcus equi* is susceptible to a wide range of antibiotics. According to Mr Vogel, to achieve the best results and to prevent chronic abscesses, the antibiotic has to be given at just the right moment.

The *Streptococcus* attacks the lymph glands around the neck and jaw; the glands swell monstrously before finally breaking down to form a necklace of



A classic image of pain echoing across the years: detail from *The Cry*, by Edvard Munch, 1895.

## Echoes of danger

As the government considers a noise watch scheme, Ann Kent reports on the world's most irritating sounds, and what they do to your health

**S**ound turns into noise when it is being produced by someone else. Research shows that the most intensely irritating sounds are office chatters, other people's crying babies, barking dogs and power tools.

The problem is not new. Van Gogh is reported to have left Paris because he found the city noises too painful. If he did suffer from Ménière's disease rather than insanity, as suggested by a group of American researchers this week, then he would have been more sensitive to city sounds than most of his contemporaries.

But does noise damage your health, as well as your peace of mind? The government, apparently, suspects that it can, and in September it is expected to make public new controls in a white paper on the environment. One proposal, which is being favourably considered is a noise watch scheme.

A recent study in the United States appears to confirm that noise is a health hazard. When 60 young men were asked to perform complex tasks while exposed to 92 decibels, equivalent to close proximity to an underground train, heavy lorry or automatic lathe, their blood pressure rose significantly and remained high throughout the one-hour test.

The effects, which resulted from stress, became worse when the noise occurred at unpredictable intervals. These noise levels also led to an increase in heart rate.

While high blood pressure and irregular heart beats are unlikely to affect those in good health, they could represent a serious hazard to someone with heart or circulatory problems.

Sir Desmond Julian, the medical director of the British Heart Foundation, says that it is recognised that the irritant effects of noise can produce a rise in adrenaline, leading to increased stress, which may cause a rise in blood pressure. "We don't know if this persists," he says. "Nevertheless, when a doctor sees a patient with high blood pressure it is wise to enquire about noise exposure — it could save

"a lot of unnecessary medication."

Dominic Buck, a market researcher and a director of Mobile Sensory Testing Services, has discovered that men and women are infuriated by different types of sound. Women are more likely to be upset by loud noises such as pneumatic drills, building work and DIY, while men are more likely to be affected by distracting sounds such as conversations which do not involve them, poor quality background music, leakage from a personal stereo and the drone of the vacuum cleaner.

"It could be that women cope better with distracting noises because they are used to the constant interruptions of children," he says.

Like everyone else working in the noise field, Mr Buck says that lack of control over a noise source is a key stress factor. A crying baby next door is much more upsetting than one in the home, because nothing can be done about it. DIY tools are most tolerable when used by oneself.

One of the quietest forms of noise pollution, background conversation, can seriously damage concentration, according to Dr Dylan Jones, a reader in psychology at the University of Wales, in Cardiff. "The content of the speech is not important, it can be digits, syllables or a foreign language," he says. "A whisper produces roughly similar effects to a shout." Background speech had no effect on mechanical activities such as steering a vehicle, or assembling a set of components, but Dr Jones believes that as more jobs become information based, rather than industrial, the dangers of voice pollution will become more noticeable.

Noise-induced hearing loss is the commonest industrial injury and, in some circumstances, excessive noise can damage the hearing of those who work in apparently quiet occupations. David Garfield Davies, a senior lecturer at University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, explains that noise-induced hearing loss can be separated into two categories: the sudden painful loss of hearing caused by a loud noise such as an explosion; and the loss which results from long exposure to more moderate levels of noise. "As a general rule, noise may damage your health if you have to shout over it to make yourself heard," he says.

Some individuals can withstand higher levels of noise than others but many people are stressed and depressed. Noise-induced hearing loss is the commonest industrial injury and, in some circumstances, excessive noise can damage the hearing of those who work in apparently quiet occupations. David Garfield Davies, a senior lecturer at University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, explains that noise-induced hearing loss can be separated into two categories: the sudden painful loss of hearing caused by a loud noise such as an explosion; and the loss which results from long exposure to more moderate levels of noise. "As a general rule, noise may damage your health if you have to shout over it to make yourself heard," he says.

Mr Buck says he works better with some background noise and as a student used to revise to music. "Now I have the television on. I also find my personal stereo helps cut out background noises which might otherwise disturb me. However, if my wife starts talking too, I find it incredibly distracting."



Wing Commander Barthrop: "I eat anything".

If I'm 7lb overweight, I feel unhealthily, I physically feel that I'm carrying too much weight. My trousers get a bit tight, my collar does not do up, and you feel that you're getting a bit revolting, size-wise. You'd be foolish not to do something about it. You get to 12 stone 5lb and you let it go, then you're up to 13 stone, and before you know it, it's 14 stone, and too late to do anything about it. But losing 5lb or 6lb is no great effort. In the summer, you put a couple of sweatshirts on and a pair of flying overalls and some big boots, go for a five-mile walk and sweat it off.

I have just a cup of tea in the morning, and then for lunch I usually go to the RAF club up the road, and have whatever's going. In the afternoon, I'll have a cup of tea or coffee. I have a main meal at night. I'm very fond of haggis with mashed potatoes with bags of cream and a dollop of butter. I really think that must be wrong, going to bed with a stomach full of food, sucking indigestion tablets.

I like all food. Trouble is I like the expensive stuff — smoked salmon, lobsters, caviar. I get rationed on that.

As long as you keep smoking cigarettes, drinking plenty of whisky and tap water — not this rubbish in a bottle — you'll go on for ever.

Interview by Pamela Nowicki

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## COMPUTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LABURNUM ROAD, WAKEFIELD

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Per

Victoria Glendinning reviews work in progress by the students and master students of our generation on the divide between the US and the UK.

COLOURS

Painting for the blind by the blind.

Interview by Pamela Nowicki

Academi Diary

# Pen Aid against apartheid

Victoria Glendinning reviews work in progress by the choice and master writers of our generation on the divide between Them and Us

This is a rich mix, containing writing from or about Ghana, Somalia, China, Guyana, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan, France, Scotland, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, North America, and England. The 34 contributors have donated their work to express their opposition to apartheid, and the proceeds go to "provide material assistance for the cultural work of the African National Congress". (There is a cloudiness about what is meant by this "cultural work". It would have been good to give some examples of it in the introduction. The phrase serves as an oblique assurance that the money will not go to buying guns.)

The editors of this collection of short stories, poems and extracts from novels in progress hope the book shows that "commitment to a cause, far from being

inimical to individual creativity, can be a rich source of artistic inspiration". That is not in question, since if the talent is there, anything — an old boot, let alone a cause — can be a rich source of artistic inspiration. But all the commitment in the world cannot in itself make good art.

Literary judgments get fuddled by political or moral issues. As Orwell wrote in "Politics vs Literature", "one can perceive merit in a writer whom one deeply disagrees with, but *enjoyment* is a different matter".

Conversely, it is easy not only to enjoy a work, but to construct reasons for thinking it is good, simply because you agree with the values and attitudes behind it — as your reviewer, for example, agrees strongly with all and any opposition to apartheid. Lots of third-rate writing gets praised as first-class for non-literary reasons. So you have to watch it.



Bapsi Sidhwa



Lewis Nkosi



Zof Wicomb



Edward Upward



Joyce Carol Oates



Raymond Williams



Emily Prager

COLOURS OF A NEW DAY  
Writing for South Africa  
Edited by Sarah Lefauve and Stephen Hayward  
Lawrence & Wishart, £12.95

directives were given to the contributors, and not all the pieces engage head-on with the outrages of apartheid in South Africa. (Which the title is taken is one that does.) But what emerges, from these contemporary stories and fragments from all over, is a recognition of man's nasty tendency to set up polarities of Them and Us, not only between black and white — though that is easiest, because visible. The elderly coloured woman, between two worlds in Zof Wicomb's "Another Story", thinks that if she were in charge she'd have apartheid "to serve the decent and god-fearing" — except that it's so hard to tell the virtuous from the wicked.

Other apertures explored in these stories are between employees and employers, children and parents, men and women. Sometimes they are horribly subtle; in James Keelman's "Lasses" are

Trained That Way", a rough Scot rejected by a girl he chases up in a bar ruefully accepts that girls are trained not to talk to strange men — but then sees her perfectly happy to be picked up by a group of male students. Class and education, not sex, was the real barrier here.

Even a shared background conceals deep divisions. Two Pakistani families from Lahore, extravagantly delighted to meet one another in alien America in Bapsi Sidhwa's "Defend Yourself Against Me", find their fondly shared memories uncover, unbearably, the Muslim-Sikh atrocities that followed Partition. Breaking down barriers can frighten those on both sides. In Emily Prager's "The Laundry", the liberal South African housewife is the friend of her black maid — they dance together to disco music in the sitting-room — but

when her American daughter-in-law insists on doing her own laundry, both mistress and maid are paralysed with incredulous horror.

A star story is Joyce Carol Oates's "Black", about a well-meaning man going to dinner with his ex-wife and her new black lover — a stomach-churning study in embarrassment, the guest giving maximum offence in his alcoholic efforts to express his realisation that the black man is "just a human being like me". Orwell wrote that in so far as a writer is a propagandist, "the most that one can ask of him is that he shall genuinely believe in what he is saying, and that it shall not be something blindingly silly". Beyond that, he said, what is required is talent. The requirements are more than fulfilled in this impressive — and enjoyable — anthology.



James Keelman, on ancestral Scottish voices of class war

IT TOOK Melvyn Bragg 17 pages before he got to stocking tops in his recently published novel about sexual obsession. Jack Trevor Story has a couple at it in *his* first paragraph. Just like that, as the late Tommy Cooper used to say. "She said, 'I worked in a sausage factory . . .' and there is more which, not being licensed for game, I may not quote. From the start Mr Trevor Story stakes his claim to refresh those parts other writers cannot reach.

This book, his first new novel in 11 years, should come with a health warning: it can cause headaches. By turns it can also make you think, laugh out loud, and throw it across the room, for reading it is like living next door to the YWCA; you find yourself

## Parts other writers cannot reach

Byron Rogers

ALBERT RIDES AGAIN  
By Jack Trevor Story  
Allison & Busby, £12.99

rushing from room to room, tumbler to the walls, to keep track of what is going on.

It begins with a plot, set in the familiar Trevor Story country of hire purchase and adultery in vans in hitching lay-bys, but then there are other plots, enough for ten books — only, as you are bounding along one of these, it suddenly

peters out. You find yourself dressed only in a shirt, staring around you in a crowded street, for there are many characters too.

A woman with no teeth who runs a tatty shop and, it turns out, the IRA. A USAF colonel who appears to be planning the Great Train Robbery. Only the Queen of England is missing, and she is promised for the next book: she blows up the Channel tunnel.

And there are characters from his earlier books, like Albert Argyle, though off-stage and dead here, having been caught short in the woods, where, practising his pheasant call as he squats, he is fatally mistaken by a hunter. They don't write books like this anymore, if they ever did.

But what are you to make of a villain who, shot dead, subsequently turns up? "Marchmont

whom gets kidnapped by Jehovah's Witnesses, is tied up naked on a bed, and has fish paste put on him, followed by a hungry cat. The author's real-life wives and children also have walk-on parts.

And there are characters from his earlier books, like Albert Argyle, though off-stage and dead here, having been caught short in the woods, where, practising his pheasant call as he squats, he is fatally mistaken by a hunter. They don't write books like this anymore, if they ever did.

But what are you to make of a villain who, shot dead, subsequently turns up? "Marchmont

saw the shaven-headed man six or seven times in his lifetime, sometimes walking, sometimes serving in street markets, sometimes driving a bus. On the bad days he wore a wig." And of other villains identified only as Alfie Bass, Victor Maddern, Harry Town, film bobbies out of all our pasts? Alas, that is the moment you throw this book.

Only you always retrieve it because of the strange voice you will not hear anywhere else. An outrageous voice. "Laboriously a man climbed over the woman and reached for his trust." A voice that can stop you in your tracks.

"Kathleen Finbow lived in a brothel. Most people do to a greater or lesser extent."

It speaks over the ruin of plots and the extinction of characters. "Hospitals becoming boring unless the loved one is dying . . ." "You could not help but return Marchmont's smile, which was instantly trusting and vulnerable and sad. It contained the tears of rejection . . ." "That is what cancer is everybody on the slip roads away from day calendars . . ."

It is the voice of a man who hears a different drummer, and I could listen to it all day, for all Trevor Story's books are about himself in the end. I wish the man well who is writing his biography. That will be like trying to establish footpath rights on the M1.

Saturday Review

Murder as a French art

In the backwoods of France, a boy's death seems to bring the family curse of Greek tragedy. Peter Ackroyd reviews the story of a ghastly crime

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## From Russia with hate

### THRILLERS

Chris Petit

MOSCOW MAGICIAN  
By John Moody  
Gollancz, £13.95

IN a claustrophobic tour de force two men smuggle themselves out of Moscow in a coffin, thereby setting a price on freedom that few would be prepared to pay. In the box, an odd couple of Soviet low-life, the Walter Matthau and Jack Palance of the Russian black market and Jewish dissidence, in pursuit, an old KGB hardliner with no time for perestroika, and more in sympathy with former American adversaries keen to preserve the status quo, a type fast becoming a standard of post cold war thrillers. Moscow Magician is distinguished, however, by its lack of stereotype, by its feeling for ordinary lives lived in the cracks of the Eastern bloc, by its guided tours of the bits of Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia that tourists don't see, and by its sympathy for the indomitable spirit of Russian opposition forced underground. As such, serious entertainment, and *alpha minus*.

• Keith Peterson's *The Scarred Man* (Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95) is exemplary of its kind: a thriller that crosses over into the horror territory of Stephen King. A worldly young journalist dreams up a ghost story one snowbound Christmas to impress the new woman in his life, only for her to break out and announce that the scarred man of his tale has been stalking her nightmares — whoo! whoo! whoo! — an ante immediately upped when both find that the bogeyman is all too real, and the chase is on. Peterson has a way with sceptical characters forced to confront the lost child in themselves, a way, too, of making his characters sound real — droll American dialogue a specialty — and it is they rather than plot that turn the clever but unexceptional into a story gobble in one uneasy sitting. A high scare rate on this particular switchback ride, and uneasy dreams to follow, hence *alpha minus*.

• The Last Candidate by Mike Phillips (Michael Joseph, £12.99) lifts the lid off local government: a

the kidnap subplot. *Beta plus ? plus*.

• Craig Thomas writes fat airport thrillers with names like *The Last Ravea* (Collins, £13.95), superficially indistinguishable from the rut, in fact rather better than most. There is the usual multi-national plot, involving a grey British eminence trying to work out why the CIA and KGB should combine forces to shoot down a plane carrying the general secretary's wife, and the usual family tie-ins — a niece jeopardised by the subplot — that make such stories cosy familiar. So far, so formulaic, and Thomas, knowing on which side his bread is buttered, is willing to oblige. But out on the edges of his story there are signs of real engagement, most evident in his treatment of a field agent at the end of his tether, caught up in a Bucharine manhunt, which suggests that inside all that research a sleek, classic thriller — 180 pages max — is struggling to get out. *Beta plus ? plus*.

• Loyalties by Gavin Esler (Headline, £12.95), as one might expect from a prominent television correspondent, is much taken with issues — Compromised news journalism — the new hollow man — working for a down-market satellite company is offered an exclusive interview with top IRA strategist. But he is assigned a camera crew more SAS than ACTT, led by a routine action man whose brief is to rescue a kidnapped explosives expert giving seminars in bomb-making to the IRA. Characters illustrate moral dilemmas, from forced collaboration to the abortion contemplated by the journo's wife. Her jaundiced assessment of husband's professional and domestic cop-outs is livelier in argument than the main terrorism plot, which in turn lacks lustre compared with the taut set-pieces of

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## CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# Woody's world of the human comedy

David Robinson reviews *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Gremlins 2*, *Total Recall*, *Black Rainbow*, *Babar The Movie* and *The Boost*

**W**oody Allen's films alternate between the comic, in which he himself stars, and the serious, and in which he does not. *Crimes and Misdemeanors* (15, Odeon Haymarket) successfully combines both styles, in telling the parallel but separate stories of two men in Allen's usual middle-class Jewish Manhattan.

Allen plays an unsuccessful director of low-budget but high-minded documentaries. He is married to a frigid wife with whom he has not slept since Hitler's birthday last year. He envies and despises his brother-in-law (Alan Alda), a millionaire media tycoon, who even carries off the woman who might have offered the documentary-maker a consolatory love affair (Mia Farrow).

At the same time, we follow the story of an ophthalmic surgeon (Martin Landau) whose life is all glittering success: the film opens with a testimonial dinner in his honour. But to secure his honour and high reputation against a threat of exposure, he becomes party to a murder.

The deed is followed by terrible remorse. However, to his great surprise, instead of the divine retribution his sound religious education led him to expect, he finds that his success multiplies and, what is worse, the sense of guilt itself fades away with time.

The two men encounter quite casually at a wedding, and reflect together on a universe in which logic and justice have no place, where our lives depend upon our individual decisions and our will to survive. Allen is the only director who would actually articulate the moral of his story, which is spoken over the close of the film by Martin Bergmann in the character of an old emigre philosopher, the subject of the documentary director's unfinished film.

Because Allen's films have so often ridiculed pretension, particularly in other cinéastes, critics tend to get embarrassed by Allen's own audacity in tackling the Great Themes. The ambition of this film is indicated by the title, with its

variant upon Dostoevsky. Allen is the only American film artist who boldly attempts to portray the human comedy, to explore the relationship of man to his universe. He does it by focusing on a clearly defined ethnic group which he knows from the inside, and which he portrays with an equal mixture of love, ridicule and guilt.

Allen's loyal band of collaborators grows. Sven Nykvist, long the cinematographer of Allen's idol Ingmar Bergman, provides the now recognisable Allen look, favouring soft, golden shades. Actors flower in Allen scripts: Sam Waterston and Mia Farrow are regulars: Landau, Alda, Anjelica Huston, Claire Bloom, Jerry Orbach make their Allen débuts.

*Gremlins 2: The New Batch* (12, Cinnons Haymarket, Oxford Street) is a rarity: a sequel (again directed by Joe Dante) better than the original. The new writer, Charlie Haas, who has replaced Chris Columbus, the Gremlins' inventor, has superimposed on the monster genre a nice line in satirical comedy about contemporary New York life.

The Gremlins' main target this time is a new high-tech office building created by a developer tycoon startlingly like Donald Trump (he falls for a siren called Marla). Who can resist the spectacle of monsters diligently wrecking a palace-prison of glass and steel, where employees are watched by video-eyes and unhealthy incalculables such as potted plants are forbidden by edict?

The best joke is that the Gremlins themselves — the master of special effects, Rick Baker has characterised a wonderful variety of diabolical characters — are eager to adopt the style of New Yorkers once they have taken control. Their spokesman, who has swallowed a bottle of brain hormone and become a Gotham intellectual, goes on television to explain their yearning for civilisation.

The film is full of background gags, like the snappy talking lift and automated doors that are always hurling unsuspecting pedestrians to the floor. There are lots of movie gags too. The tycoon's cable television promises *Casa-*

*blanca* "in colour and with a happier ending". The whole film is presented within Looneytoons titles in which Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Porky Pig fight for main credit; the best moment comes when the Gremlins invade the theatre and burn the film as we watch it.

At something near \$70 million (£39.1m), *Total Recall* (18, Odeon West End, Marble Arch) may well be the costliest film production ever. Two months after its release, with gross receipts well over \$100m (£55.9m), there is no need to be sorry for anyone.

The cost is visible on screen, with vast, astounding and genuinely inventive sets representing colonised Mars in the year 2084, and an elaborate, if fairly repellent race of mutants.

The box-office appeal may well be due less to the spectacle, however, than to the skill with which the screenplay (by Ronald Shusett, Dan O'Bannon and Gary Goldman) exploits every current paranoia. Mars a century ahead realises all today's worst fears: violence, terrorism, corruption, pollution and ecological collapse.

**T**he story is of near impenetrable complexity. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a terrestrial construction worker who resorts to a mind travel agency, where exotic dream-memories are implanted in the brain. After the operation goes wrong, neither he nor we are sure if he is the worker or a secret agent; whether he is an agent, a double agent or a triple agent; or indeed which of his many *doppelgänger* manifestations is the real character.

Grown-ups certainly cannot figure it all out. The puzzle as so often is whether the teen audience, conditioned by computer games, is actually able to follow the labyrinthine twists; or whether it does not really care so long as the violence is non-stop, with minute-by-minute cracking of necks and blasting of heads. The director, Paul Verhoeven, who made his name with some very offbeat films, obliges energetically. The



Agent, double agent or triple agent? Arnold Schwarzenegger changes his image during *Total Recall*

film's visual invention is offset by its visceral nastiness. Schwarzenegger's self-deprecating good humour prevails none the less.

In *Black Raisin* (15, Curzon West End), Mike Hodges, as writer-director, turns a slight supernatural anecdote into an atmospheric ghost story. Rosanna Arquette (who grows ever more like a triplet to Isabella Rossellini and Nastassja Kinski) tours rundown industrial townships on the Bible belt with her father (Jason Robards), bringing messages from the dear departed. Things start to

go awry when she starts to predict the departures of the still-living.

The aforementioned Bugs Bunny has just celebrated his fiftieth birthday. Babar the elephant, created by Jean de Brunhoff and kept alive by his son Laurent, is nearing 60. Babar the Movie (U, Cinnons, Tottenham Court Road, Panton Street) is very loyal to the spirit and elegant minimalist graphic style of the original. The appeal of the story is strictly for the youngest audience; though it is nice to know that the film is helping to raise money to save real-life elephants.

*The Boost* (18, Cinnons Oxford Street, Panton Street) is a timely cautionary tale for Hollywood, with James Woods as a young go-getter who gets caught up in the fast life of the West Coast; and gets hooked on cocaine when the bubble of quick riches bursts.

There is no doubt the sincerity of the film-makers — director Harold Becker — or the diligence of the actors: Woods' loving, suffering wife is played by Sean Young. The story and sentiments, though, have too much the style of Victorian tracts such as *The Bottles of the Road to Ruin*.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHOWGIRL** (Palace, 18) Talent goes to waste in this botched combination of a muddled wartime crime spree, with Emily Lloyd as the Hammerstein girl ebbing on an American summer (Kathy Sutherland) to a life of amour fantasy. Director: Bernard Rose. 1990.

**DOCTOR WHO** (BBC): Two feature-length television movies from the 1980s — *The Five Doctors* (U), the celebrated jamboree collecting together various Dr Who impersonators (except the first, William Hartnell), and *The Brain of Morbius* (PG), with Tom Baker venturing forth onto the planet Karn.

**GLEAMING THE CUBE** (MGM/UA, PG): A Californian skateboard freak tries to solve the death of his adopted Vietnamese brother. Absurd thriller, dragged down by Christian Slater's tiresome nasal whine, but hosted up slightly by skateboarding thrills and spills. 1989.

**GREAT BALLS OF FIRE** (Virgin, 15): Energetic but superficial account of the early years of legendary rock 'n' roller Jerry Lee Lewis. Exuberant star performance from Dennis Quaid; directed by Jim McBride. 1989.

**HENRY V** (20/20 Vision, PG): Visually drab, war-is-hell version from wonderkid Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars, scoring a bull's eye in his field. Some solid acting (Esmond (Judi Dench) especially), but the film fails to ignite the emotions. 1989.

**LOCK UP** (Guild, 18): Factory-belt prison drama, with Sylvester Stallone trying to soft-pedal the brutality as a model inmate faced with a vengeful warden (Donald Sutherland). John Flynn's taut direction gives a helping hand to the slack script. 1990.

**THE LONG GRAY LINE** (RCA-Columbia, U): John Ford in long-winded, sentimental, heavily Irish mood, celebrating the life of a West Point athletics trainer (Tyone Power). By no means a great film, but an interesting Hollywood artefact. 1955.

**THE SEA WOLF** (Warner, PG): Dark, compelling treatment of Jack London's novel, with Edward G. Robinson as the psychopathic ship's captain making life miserable for Almond (Kris) John Gielgud and Ida Lupino. Handsome directed by Michael Curtiz. 1941.

**SOME LIKE IT HOT** (Warner, U): A slender story — two musicians in drag, fleeing gangsters — delightfully decorated by Billy Wilder, with just a few overextended moments. Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis provide outrageous comedy, but Monroe gives the film its heart. 1959.

**THE SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS** (Warner, U): The story of Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight — a curious project for the scrobbly Billy Wilder — though James Stewart's performance, the impeccable production values, and Franz Waxman's soaring music all keep the film airborne. 1957.

GEOFF BROWN

## CINEMA: SCRIPT SEMINAR

## Holy writ from the movie Moses

Michael Gray attends screenwriter Robert McKee's three-day Story Structure Course in London

**A**t One Central London, a June Saturday, 8.55am. One hundred individuals converge on Regent Street with a common, bizarre desire: to learn to write hit screenplays. They spill off buses; they fight out of Piccadilly and Green Park tube-stations; they burn the back alleys of Savile Row for parking-spaces in their race against time.

In the next five minutes they must reach the steps of the Chemistry Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, and register for the Robert McKee Story Structure Course — an intensive three days, costing £300.

What Long Haunted Artists and Their Pain gather here: 70 per cent of these people still smoke cigarettes! "I hear Paramount sends everyone on this..." "Who is McKee..." "He does this world-wide..." "Isn't that Susanah York?" "He wrote for tv..." "That's Nigel Planer: I wonder why he's here."

A clock strikes. A bell rings. Students drop cigarette-ends into coffee-trays and surge forward into the dark lecture-hall.

On-stage, a back-drop of hi-tech blackboards. A lecturer squats at each side, festooned with microphones. Spotlights pick out a square module lying on the floor. From it, 20 feet of thin microphone cable swoops up to the collar of a tall, well-built, silver-haired American guru. He paces the stage. He pours himself a slug of coffee. Robert McKee is ready.

His rich voice asserts itself at once. Scattering four-letter words — this is public-speaking for the 1990s: a lecture, but a hip one — McKee gives back-story exposition: how he comes from off-Broadway to Hollywood, finds work reading scripts for United Artists... and discovers that no one knows how to tell a story anymore.

"So, ladies and gentlemen,

here's how. Literary talent is not enough. Who are these characters? What do they want? The industry sits on the foundation of writing. For those who can write brilliant stories, it's a seller's market. You too can live in Beverly Hills."

He argues that stripped down, *Out of Africa*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, and *Terminator* share the same story-form people have bought since time began. "People go to movies for meaningful emotional experience — the very thing they cannot get from life."

Pens raced to get it down. It is chipped, confident, coherent, pouring out tough common-sense with a new, shining clarity. Structure, scenes, sequences are defined, and this is just the introduction. McKee ends dead on 10.45, without even glancing at the clock.

The students queue for coffee, chat, smoke. This goes on all day: insight mixed with breaks. By end (7pm sharp) they have learnt setting and genre; the controlling idea; the protagonist; levels of conflict; the inciting incident. The terms reel out. McKee is a star.

Act Two: Same place, Sunday mid-morning. McKee is back in — but the atmosphere is turning. It's tense now. Sections of the crowd grow restive. The pop-psychology and gangsta-American start grating. The Euripides-Schwarzenegger mix seems glib. Cine-modernists resent the John Wayne sub-text. For feminist career-women, McKee transmutes fast into the bad guy. Under the lights, as in life, common-sense starts sounding less like truth than just another right-wing view.

Treating questions as heckles, he puts them down. He will only take clarification, not challenge. A large minority of his audience reaches boiling point. They start to shout, mock, tease. "You're making me defensive, and I don't like that!" McKee shouts back. Losing

his cool, will he lose all he has striven to build? Today it's McKee who needs the lunch-break.

Act Three: Afternoon. By effort of will and force of material, McKee re-asserts his charismatic authority. The crowd's sense of fair play works in his favour, as does another common-sense view: politico-cultural debate wastes time and money. McKee's trump-card — the very thing people resent — is overbearing definiteness. It is clear what there is to agree or disagree with. The afternoon passes.

But the sub-text is many a true word spoken in jest: McKee is the white-haired patriarch brandishing prescriptive principles. He plays Moses ("I put back into currency what was once common knowledge... under the old studio system") but he may as well be Jehovah: distil and they're the same character.

Roll *Casablanca*... roll scene-by-scene analysis. This is indeed Hollywood at its most beguiling. Everything in this 50-year-old classic illuminates 50-year-old McKee's thesis.

His post-climax resolution? That this is the world's best-loved movie because its message promises that "in the fundamental human dilemma of love versus duty, you can have both". Bogart affirms his love for Bergman by putting her on the plane and walking away alongside Claude Rains, the noble political realist.

But this is a false coding — and McKee now stands revealed as a Bogie fantasiest: the all-American loves always putting Bergman on the plane because sacrificing love is easier than sustaining a relationship. In an inspired final twist, McKee, seeking to stress his message by quoting "As Time Goes By", sings the lines...

A revelatory moment, making sense of all that has gone before. Unlike those who see *The Sound of Music* 200 times, here is a man carving a career out of obsessively re-viewing *Casablanca*. Shyly, he stops singing. The audience appreciates the pathos; they cannot but admire the nakedness of the man behind the fantasiest behind the actor behind the guru. Sustained applause. McKee bows. The End.



*Casablanca*, the classic film analysed by Robert McKee

## CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

"THIS BEST MOVIE SINCE MANNHEIM AND HER SISTERS... BEAUTIFULLY DIRECTED, SCRIBBED AND ACTED... BE SURE TO PLACE IT STRAIGHT ON YOUR LIST."



CAROLINE AARON ALAN ALDA WOODY ALLEN CLAIRE BLOOM MIA FARROW JOANNA GLEASON ANJELICA HUSTON MARTIN LANDAU JENNY NICHOLS JERRY ORBACH SAM WATERSTON

JACK ROLLINS AND CHARLES H. JOFFE "CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS" CASTING: JULIET TAYLOR COSTUME DESIGNER: JEFFREY KURLAND PROPS: SUSIE E. MORSE A.C.E. PROPS: SANTO LOQUASTO C.S.C. SVEN NYKVIST A.C.E. JACK ROLLINS AND CHARLES H. JOFFE PROPS: ROBERT GREENHUT PICTURES: WOODY ALLEN Color by Deluxe

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WH SMITH

More to discover



# Sympathy in a family affair

## THEATRE

### The Three Sisters

Royal Court



**GREAT-UNCLE** Conchubor does not appear, nor do cousins Finneola or Foarawn; but a fair quota of that distinguished Irish acting clan, the Cusacks, is happily on display on the Court stage. Since Siorcha and Niambi, Cyril's daughters, are Chekhov's three sisters, and their father plays Chebutykin, one of those doctors who stumble through the master's work, exuding alcohol fumes and ennui.

Actually, the Cusack family may parallel Chekhov's characters even more closely than is obvious. It has been reputably argued that Chebutykin, who is abjectly devoted to their mother's memory, may actually be father to one of the girls. That is not, however, apparent from Cyril's wonderfully idiosyncratic performance. When he is not in his cups, bleating and helplessly barking out self-accusations, he exudes a beauteous *bont-horror*, not aimed at anyone in particular. He seems too vague to remember if he is anyone's father.

But what of those at the emotional core of Adrian Noble's sensitively produced, the Cusack girls? Family resemblance is an advantage, but hardly crucial. Sisterly rapport counts for more, and there, too, the Cusacks have

their moments. The evening begins with them clustered together in the intimacy of hope, and ends, movingly, with them similarly entwined in the intimacy of loss.

Of course, such moments matter less than the strong individual performances that could, I suppose, come from women respectively born in Cork, Chad and the Andromeda galaxy. Yet all three discover effective ways of expressing frustration at small-town mediocrity. Siorcha finds an understated blend of longing, defeat and stoicism inside Olga's schoolmarmish exterior. Niambi seems jumpier, touchier than the sweet *ingénue* Irina usually is; and

passes through violent mood-swings before ending up scrubbed, bespectacled, wilfully plain: an example of renunciation in action.

Sinead's Masha moves from world-weariness to an irresistible restlessness to near-speechless distraction as she finds and then loses love in the form of Nicky Henson's gruff, bluff but imaginative Vasilisa. This is a boldly unsentimental performance, derived as much from anger as romantic yearning. There is pain here, yes; but also darker, harsher, more dangerous feelings, and surprisingly plausible they prove.

An interesting effect is to make her persecutors, husband and

sister-in-law, more sympathetic. Indeed, Lesley Manville's Natasha, while still the shrill and vulgar bourgeoisie, seems very much the victim of family snobbishness and rejection. It is, for once, not just selfishness that impels her into erotic adventures outside. And that insight is characteristic of Noble's revival, which can be slow and dreamy and venture perilously near the kind of glut English production that went out of fashion years ago: yet is packed with thoughtful, delicate, quietly feeling moments. It is strongly recommended.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

with frost-bite only recently, is replaced by something close to Central Park warmth.

The piece begins as an ironic reversal of *Romeo and Juliet*: two fathers who actually want their offspring to unite conspire to fake the parental opposition that they shrewdly believe will cement the match. The dramatic limitation is that the lovers are the merest ciphers, going through the romantic motions like puppets.

Emma Amos as 16-year-old Luisa ("I love to taste my tears. Don't let me be normal") looks like something on top of the Christmas tree that smiles and sings sweetly enough; Anthony Barcay is gauche and earnest as Matt ("I defy biology and achieve ignorance"), vaguely reminiscent of the young Woody Allen.

The fun is all on the fringes. Roy Hudd relishes the part of Matt's green-fingered father. Huckleberry ("I learnt horticulture in the navy"), and makes his garden shears click like castanets in an amusing duet with Bellomy (An-

thony O'Donnell), father of Luisa. The two fathers' master-stroke is in the hiring of El Gallo, a kind of rent-a-villain, and two moth-eaten travelling players to stage an attempted abduction of Luisa that is designed to bolster Matt's prowess. Erick Ray Evans is slim and sardonic as Gallo, and Basil Hoskins and Mark Addy provide a well-oiled double act as the would-be-Shakespearian Henry, and his sidekick, Mortimer, improbable go up as a Red Indian.

In the second act, *Romeo and Juliet* gives way to *Faust* as the two lovers, disillusioned by the awareness that their romance has been staged for them, attempt to find real romance in the world outside. The music shifts effectively from sweetly lyrical opening numbers to seamier jazz and blues, well rendered by Catherine Jayes. Paul Farnsworth's Klee-like backdrops catch the mood of self-conscious artifice that suffuses this delightful production.

HARRY EYRES

## THEATRE

### The Fantasticks

Regent's Park

THE most fantastic thing about Tom Jones's and Harvey Schmitt's new musical adaptation of Rossetti's *Les Romancesques* is the story of its own success. First produced at a college summer school for a week, it was taken to the Sullivan Street Theatre, New York, by the producer Lorenzo Noto, nearly closed after nine weeks, and is still running, 30 years later. Some long-running shows seem to continue by sheer force of habit.

This one, though, has real virtues, even if only lightweight ones, of charm and wit, and they are beautifully realised in Ian Talbot's captivating and, at moments, poetic production. As if by sympathetic magic, the customary Regent's Park chill, which threatened this paper's senior theatre critic

though the acoustics for the really loud number, the celebrated *Frog Chorus* — "Breeke-kex-ko-ox" — are fearful. The musical has rarely been done, and Sondheim's music figures only rarely within it, where the Chorus in the original sang. Since these passages are restricted to the climaxes and the occasional change of scene, the musical contribution is thinly spread: four songs before the interval and two after.

The result is therefore very different from the earlier Sondheim foray into classical drama, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. In the Aristophanes, the weedy god, Dionysos, goes down to Hades — crossing the frog-filled Styx — to find out a-

The singing, quite honestly, is

good poet to sort out the problems of Athens. The Sondheim version faithfully follows this loose storyline except that it is the *theatre* that is in trouble not Athens, and instead of a contest between craggy Aeschylus and slippery-tongued Euripides, what is offered (and the spirits sink) is Shakespeare v Shaw.

Sondheim fans will find his most characteristic music in the *parabasis* halfway through the show: "And there is time — There's always time — Plenty of time — All the time in the world," the chorus quietly sings, spread around the pool and to a slow, wistful accompaniment of two bassoons.

The singing, quite honestly, is

JEREMY KINGSTON

## THEATRE

### The Frogs

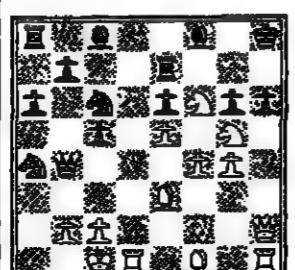
Old Brentford Baths

WHATEVER the shortcomings of this show, which are several, its management team deserves a special category of award, perhaps the Crazy Application of Logic Prize, for setting Stephen Sondheim's musical version of Aristophanes in a public swimming bath.

Most of the cast start off and end up in the water, although the audience sits dry in the galleries. The small orchestra is also squeezed up there and plays pretty nicely in unusual conditions, al-

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Arvin, *Class Correspondent*



This position is from the game Braga (White) - Rossello (Black)

(Buenos Aires 1990). Can you see the winning move?

With a long forcing manoeuvre?

In tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position:

Nf3 d2 Nf2 e3 ... Oxf2 3

Oxf2 3 hxf2 Nf2 e3 ...

## BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando 8.55 Regional news and weather  
9.00 News and weather  
9.05 Belle and Sebastian (r) 8.25 Why Don't You...? (r)  
10.00 News and weather followed by The Jetsons 10.30 Playhouse  
10.55 Five to Eleven, Anne and Lynn Wilson continues the story of the tapestry about Quaker belief and practice  
11.00 News and weather followed by Peaceable Kingdom, Drama series starring Lindsay Wagner as the director of the Los Angeles zoo  
12.00 News and weather followed by The Game Party. More reflections from the team in the Botanical Gardens Has feminism affected the family? And is a children's television coming up with the goods? 12.55 Regional news and weather  
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)  
1.50 He Who Dares. The story of a man who was brainwashed for nine months (r) 2.20 Chums Series 2 Summer Season (r) 2.30 Sailing the Winds of Paradise. The biennial Kenwood Cup from Honolulu, with three British teams taking part (r)  
3.00 Cricket: First Test. Live coverage from Lord's of the opening day's play in the first Test between England and India



James Convey, Susan Wooldridge (9.30pm)

4.00 Chilly Willy Double Bill. Cartoon fun 4-10 The All New Popeye Show 4.35 Ben Boyce. Episode one of a 10-part children's serial (r)  
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Morn It. Gymnastics, motor racing and athlete Daley Thompson putting 240 children through their paces. (Ceefax)  
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland. Sportsnews 5.40 Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Andrew Harvey. Weather 6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Top of the Pope presented by Jackie Brambles 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax)  
8.00 Life on One. Sarah Greene and Simon Mayhew with an investigation into whether it is really the killer some people claim, or just the latest in a long line of hysterical stories.  
8.30 Waiting for God. Gentle comedy series set in a seaside retirement village starring Graham Crowden and Stephen Cole. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Dad's Army 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather 9.30 The Play on One: Changing Step. (Actor, artist and novelist Antony Sher turns playright with an acute and moving study of young amputees convalescing in a Scottish castle during the first world war. Much of the cast is similarly multi-talented Richard Wilson, of Hot Metal and Tuff Truff, who devised the piece — suggested by a previous play by David Harewell — and directed it.)



Ray Gosling: a rockin' and a rollin' (7.05pm)

8.45 Open University: Introduction to Psychology. Ends at 7.10  
8.00 News 8.15 Weathermaster  
8.00 Mastermind 1986 (r)  
9.30 My School. Cherry Burnett looks at the threat of closing failing small village schools (r)  
10.00 Look, Stranger. A profile of Clerkenwell silver-spoon Michael Murray 10.25 The Way I Went. Tom McDevitt visits the rolling hills of Northern Ireland's County Tyrone (r)  
10.50 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the opening session of the first Test at Lord's between England and India.  
1.05 Past and Present. Presented, A visit to the open-air National Museum "Zuiderzeemuseum" 1.20 Mr Benn (r)  
1.35 Cricket: First Test. Tony Lewis introduces further live coverage of today's play from Lord's. Includes News and weather at 2.00  
3.00 News and weather followed by Mr Speaker, Sir Viv Robbins chats to Bernard Weatherhead 3.50 News, regional news and weather  
4.00 Cricket: First Test. Further coverage from Lord's  
6.30 Royal Welsh Polo Classic. The frantic game of polo returns to Cardiff for the first time in 32 years. Today's match is between the Leek team, which boasts Prince Abdullah of Malaysia as a player, and the Prince of Wales's team  
7.05 Oh, Sweet Mystery of Rock: Where Are You Hiding?  
• The incomparable Ray Gosling puts on his boot-lace tie and turns his quizzical gaze to an event that might have been devised just for him, a convention of ageing rock'n'rollers at a Pontin holiday camp in the west country. Like many other 16-year-olds in 1955, Gosling went to the pictures

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW  
5.00am Weather and News  
5.00am News 6.00 24 Hours 6.30 Simon Mayo 6.00 Simon Davis 11.00 The Radio 1 Roadshow 12.00pm Newsheet 12.45 Gary Davies 7.30 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 8.00 News 9.00 6.00 Matt Goss 9.30 The Big Breakfast (Ceefax) 7.30 Philip Schofield 8.30 John Peel 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

## RADIO 2

Fm Stereo and MW  
5.00am Weather and News 5.30 Chris Tarrant 5.30-6.00 Jimmy 6.30 Austin Cheal 6.30-7.00 David Jason 7.05 Lucy 7.30 10.00 News 7.30-8.00 Financial News 8.30 10.45 Weather Today 8.30-9.00 The World Today 10.30 Financial News: Sports Roundup 10.45 Society Today 11.00-11.30 The World Today 11.30-12.00 Sports Mag. Magazine 12.00 World News 12.15 12.30pm News about Britain 12.15 Sportsweek 12.30-1.00 Sports' People 1.00 Newsreel 1.15 Smits' Track 2.15 Sports' People 2.30-3.00 Sports' People 3.00 News Summary and Financial News 2.30 "Network UK 2.45 Sportsweek 3.00 World News" 3.00 Outlook 3.30 Off the Shelf: The Wardrobe 3.45 Music 4.00-4.30 Music 4.15 BBC 4.30 Radio 4.30 Radio 4.50 Music 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Londoners' Sor 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.45 Nachrichten 8.01 Out 8.20 Financial News 8.30-9.00 The Times Thursday 8.45 The Financial World 9.00 World News 9.30 The World Today 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Morden 10.01 Sports Roundup 10.15 Sports News 10.30-11.00 The World Today 11.00-11.30 News 11.30-12.00 Newsheet 12.00 News 12.00-12.30pm Commentary 12.10 Financial News 1.15 Music Review 1.00 Newsheet 1.30 Modern Masterpiece 2.00 Outlook 2.30 Financial News 2.45 Sports UK 2.45 Club 3.00-3.30 Review of the British Press 3.15 Newsheet 3.30 Smits' People 3.35 5.00 News 4.00 News 4.00 News about Britain 4.15 Seven Seven 4.30 The Prospective 4.45 Radio 4.50 Radio 4.50 News in German 5.00 News 5.35 News in German 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News

## WORLD SERVICE

All times BST  
6.00pm News 6.00 24 Hours 6.30 London  
7.00 Newsheet 7.30 The Poetry of Thomas Hardy 7.40 The Farming World 8.00 News 8.05 24 Hours 8.30 News and Financial News 8.30 10.45 Weather Today 9.00-9.15 Good Books 9.30 John Peel 10.00 News 10.00 Review of the British Press 10.15 The World Today 10.30 Financial News: Sports Roundup 10.45 Society Today 11.00-11.30 The World Today 11.30-12.00 Sports Mag. Magazine 12.00 World News 12.15 12.30pm News about Britain 12.15 Sportsweek 12.30-1.00 Sports' People 1.00 Newsreel 1.15 Smits' Track 2.15 Sports' People 2.30-3.00 Sports' People 3.00 News Summary and Financial News 2.30 "Network UK 2.45 Sportsweek 3.00 World News" 3.00 Outlook 3.30 Off the Shelf: The Wardrobe 3.45 Music 4.00-4.30 Music 4.15 BBC 4.30 Radio 4.30 Radio 4.50 Music 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Londoners' Sor 6.15 The World Today 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.45 Nachrichten 8.01 Out 8.20 Financial News 8.30-9.00 The Times Thursday 8.45 The Financial World 9.00 World News 9.30 The World Today 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Morden 10.01 Sports Roundup 10.15 Sports News 10.30-11.00 The World Today 11.00-11.30 News 11.30-12.00 Newsheet 12.00 News 12.00-12.30pm Commentary 12.10 Financial News 1.15 Music Review 1.00 Newsheet 1.30 Modern Masterpiece 2.00 Outlook 2.30 Financial News 2.45 Sports UK 2.45 Club 3.00-3.30 Review of the British Press 3.15 Newsheet 3.30 Smits' People 3.35 5.00 News 4.00 News 4.00 News about Britain 4.15 Seven Seven 4.30 The Prospective 4.45 Radio 4.50 Radio 4.50 News in German 5.00 News 5.35 News in German 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News

## SATELLITE

5.00am Sky World Review 5.30 International Business Report 6.00 The DJ Show 8.30 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Right Day 12.00 Andrew World Tonight 12.30-1.00 The World Today 1.30-2.15 The Times' Company 2.45 Lucy 3.15 Groove Ghouls 3.45 Capital Coven 4.00 The Adventures of Gulliver 4.25 Morris the Cat 5.00 The Right Day 5.30 Sky 6.30-6.50 The New Price is Right 6.30-6.50 The Century 7.00 Beyond 2000 6.00 Moonlight 9.00 Wesley 10.00 Summer Laughin' 11.00 Sky World Tonight 12.00 Emergency 12.30am Pages from Skyline

## SKY NEWS

News on the hour 5.00am Sky World Review 5.30 International Business Report 6.00 The DJ Show 8.30 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Right Day 12.00 Andrew World Tonight 12.30-1.00 The World Today 1.30-2.15 The Times' Company 2.45 Lucy 3.15 Groove Ghouls 3.45 Capital Coven 4.00 The Adventures of Gulliver 4.25 Morris the Cat 5.00 The Right Day 5.30 Sky 6.30-6.50 The New Price is Right 6.30-6.50 The Century 7.00 Beyond 2000 6.00 Moonlight 9.00 Wesley 10.00 Summer Laughin' 11.00 Sky World Tonight 12.00 Emergency 12.30am Pages from Skyline

## SKY ONE

5.00pm Sky World Review 5.30 International Business Report 6.00 The DJ Show 8.30 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Right Day 12.00 Andrew World Tonight 12.30-1.00 The World Today 1.30-2.15 The Times' Company 2.45 Lucy 3.15 Groove Ghouls 3.45 Capital Coven 4.00 The Adventures of Gulliver 4.25 Morris the Cat 5.00 The Right Day 5.30 Sky 6.30-6.50 The New Price is Right 6.30-6.50 The Century 7.00 Beyond 2000 6.00 Moonlight 9.00 Wesley 10.00 Summer Laughin' 11.00 Sky World Tonight 12.00 Emergency 12.30am Pages from Skyline

## SKY MOVIES

2.00pm Two Solitudes. Drama about two men, an industrialist and an aristocrat, from the same town. Jean-Pierre Aumont and Stéphane Keach 4.00 King of the Beasts 5.00 The Adventures of Captain Schnecko 26. An adventure story for children, set in the heroic age of the 19th century. A string of murders in world war II. Melbourne plays a steampunk in US-Australian relations when the US is forced to join the war. Gérard Depardieu, Jeanne Cauzac 4.30-5.30 Real Genius (1986): Smart fed. Val Kilmer enrols in a science course which turns out to be a front for a government-sponsored project to develop a super-soldier. William Atherton and Gebe Jarrett. Ends 5.45

## EUROSPORT

5.00pm Sky One 8.30 Eurosport 10.30 Eurosport 11.00 Eurosport 10.30 Eurosport 12.00 Eurosport 12.30pm Eurosport 13.00 Eurosport 14.00 Eurosport 15.00 Eurosport 16.00 Eurosport 17.00 Eurosport 18.00 Eurosport 19.00 Eurosport 20.00 Eurosport 21.00 Eurosport 22.00 Eurosport 23.00 Eurosport 24.00 Eurosport 25.00 Eurosport 26.00 Eurosport 27.00 Eurosport 28.00 Eurosport 29.00 Eurosport 30.00 Eurosport 31.00 Eurosport 32.00 Eurosport 33.00 Eurosport 34.00 Eurosport 35.00 Eurosport 36.00 Eurosport 37.00 Eurosport 38.00 Eurosport 39.00 Eurosport 40.00 Eurosport 41.00 Eurosport 42.00 Eurosport 43.00 Eurosport 44.00 Eurosport 45.00 Eurosport 46.00 Eurosport 47.00 Eurosport 48.00 Eurosport 49.00 Eurosport 50.00 Eurosport 51.00 Eurosport 52.00 Eurosport 53.00 Eurosport 54.00 Eurosport 55.00 Eurosport 56.00 Eurosport 57.00 Eurosport 58.00 Eurosport 59.00 Eurosport 60.00 Eurosport 61.00 Eurosport 62.00 Eurosport 63.00 Eurosport 64.00 Eurosport 65.00 Eurosport 66.00 Eurosport 67.00 Eurosport 68.00 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THURSDAY JULY 26 1990

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Oil prices to rise as demand outstrips Opec production

By HAZIR TEIMOURIAN

"IF ONLY Saddam could wait a while, this short drama would not be necessary", said a delegate to the preliminary meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Geneva yesterday. He was referring to the deployment of Iraqi troops by President Saddam Hussein along the border with Kuwait and he assumed the quarrel was primarily about oil prices.

What the delegate wanted to convey, however, was generally agreed: oil prices would go much higher over the next few years because demand would continue to increase while the production capacity of most Opec members would be unable to keep abreast.

During the past four years, the

demand for Opec oil rose from 15.5 million barrels per day (mbd) to 22.5 mbd, and prices rose to reflect the demand, despite the fluctuations and the quota-breakings. The organisation adheres to the prediction last November of Rihwan Lukman, its president, that by 1992, demand will be so high that individual country market shares, the quotas, will become unnecessary. Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, then the oil minister of Kuwait, said at the same time that by the end of 1992, the demand for crude from members of the organisation would reach 24 mbd.

Any further rise above that level, however, might be beyond Opec's ability to fulfil, at least in the shorter term, according to Mehdi Varzi, director of

energy research for Kleinwort Benson. He said yesterday that, with or without Opec, prices would go higher over the next few years.

He added: "The chances are high that the ministers will agree at this meeting in

intervention by Iraq in Kuwait receded and talks over quotas and a new target price for oil began in earnest. Reports that Iraq would call for prices of \$30 a barrel were dismissed by analysts last night as "unrealistic".

Negotiators are expected to press for \$25 a barrel, but settle for \$20.

produce and export. The dispute between the Iraqis and the Iranians, on the one hand, and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, on the other, is over methods and time scales. The latter group wants prices to rise naturally and more slowly; the former through immediate action by the cartel. The latter consists of those who have the ability to produce more, while the former have over-exploited many of their oil fields.

Assuming the industrialised countries that consume three-quarters of the world's energy production are not plunged into a recession, will an invigorated oil cartel be in a position to quadruple prices suddenly, as it did in 1973? Oil experts believe not. Producers

and consumers have learned that such erratic behaviour is destabilising and serves nobody's interests. The experts also say the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf is no longer the "global choke point for oil". Extra pipelines are running through Saudi Arabia and others through Turkey. Another war in the Gulf region would not disrupt exports to the same extent as in the past.

Finally, the green lobby hopes that increases would encourage industrialised countries to redouble efforts in developing kinder, gentler alternatives to fossil fuels. To the holders of this view, the \$30 oil barrel is heaven sent.

Can Opec survive? Page 10

### Signs point to \$20 a barrel

#### AFF plans flotation next year

ASSOCIATED Fresh Foods, a £65 million management buy-out from the Asda-MFI group in 1987, is planning a stock market flotation next year.

Unveiling a 13 per cent rise in operating profits at £11 million for the year to end-April, Harry Lavery, the AFF chairman, said that Lazard Brothers, the group's financial adviser, is "reviewing options" open to the group, and the outline plan is to bring the company to the market in 1991.

AFF is one of the country's leading fresh food manufacturers and distributors, and includes Associated Dairies and Cravendale Foods, which supplies dairy and food products to the retail, wholesale and catering trades.

Pretax profits were £3.6 million against £3.3 million, said Mr Lavery, on a turnover of £164 million.

#### Lasmo ahead

Lasmo, the independent oil exploration and production company, increased net income by 17 per cent to £32 million during the six months to the end of June. Earnings rose by 9 per cent to 8.2p a share and the interim dividend is increased 10 per cent to 2.2p. *Tempus*, page 25

#### Hepworth dips

Hepworth, the building products group, made pre-tax profits of £50.1 million in the first six months of 1990, against £53.3 million previously. The interim dividend rose from 5.15p to 5.3p a share.

*Tempus*, page 25

#### THE POUND

US dollar 1.8095 (-0.0155)  
 W German mark 2.9328 (-0.0219)  
 Exchange index 92.9 (-0.8)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1855.7 (-1.0)  
 FT-SE 100 2364.7 (+3.8)  
 New York Dow Jones 2926.49 (+3.97)  
 Tokyo Nikkei Avge 31701.27 (-1.19)  
 Closing Prices ... Page 27

Major indices and major changes Page 26

#### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base, 15.14%  
 3-month interbank 15.14%  
 3-month eligible bills, 14.14-14.11%  
 US: Prime Rate 10%  
 Federal Funds 7.4%  
 3-month Treasury Bills 7.54-7.52%  
 30-year bonds 101.10-101.20%

#### CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
 £ 1.8095 £ 1.8120  
 \$ 2.9328 \$ 2.9357  
 F 1.4716 F 1.4745  
 FF 9.6138 FF 9.4270  
 Yen 145.95 Yen 145.95  
 Index 92.9 Index 92.9  
 ECU 0.703348 SDR 0.740807  
 ECU 1.421771 SDR 1.348579

#### GOLD

London Fixing:  
 AM 367.40 pm 337.75  
 close \$372.25-372.75 (£205.75-  
 206.25)

New York:  
 Comex 3372.70-373.20

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug.) ... \$19.15/bbl (\$19.30)

\* Denotes latest trading price

## De Beers signs \$5bn deal for Russian gems

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

DE BEERS Centenary, the Swiss arm of South Africa's De Beers diamond group, has signed a five-year exclusive contract worth a total of \$5 billion with the Soviet Union to market and sell rough diamonds.

Negotiations between the two parties had been held in London and the Soviet Union over the past three months, the group said.

De Beers Centenary also acquires a stockpile of rough diamonds held in the State Treasury whose value Moscow wanted to realise.

The Soviet Union has traditionally been "responsible" in its marketing, and the De Beers team agrees the stockpile will be seen as a means of not disrupting the market.

Gary Raife, a De Beers director, said that there had been no hint or threat by the Russians that they would dump their stockpile in order to secure the agreement.

"We learned of the stockpile as our negotiations progressed," he said.

Russian rough diamonds from the stockpile have started to arrive in London for sorting and classification by the CSO. However, because Russian gems have for long made up part of the CSO's regular sights, no particular disruption from yesterday's agreement is expected.

The CSO sold \$4.09 billion worth of rough diamonds in 1989, and in the first six months of this year sales were

Debt cleared, page 25

## Analysts call power sales 'a midsummer madness'

By MARTIN WALLER

A SUBSTANTIAL and growing minority of City analysts are convinced that the continuing confusion over the possible sale of PowerGen to Hanson has made both electricity generators unattractive in their current form.

And the leaking of news of a possible sale of PowerGen and the larger National Power was looking last night increasingly like a massive public relations blunder by the government.

Analysts cannot comment openly on the affair, due to its political sensitivity and because of their close ties with the 16 companies in the industry which will be floated.

But they were privately hitting out at the government's handling of the generators' sale as a "shambles", a

farcical and a case of "mid-summer madness."

One commented: "They have totally scuppered the flotation of either company. The government has admitted defeat."

The City is convinced that the introduction of Hanson, at a time when the Department of Energy and the companies were locked in complex and often bitter talks over the amount of debt the two would have to assume, was a piece of political brinkmanship that went badly wrong.

If Hanson now walks away from a purchase of PowerGen - thought quite possible given the current furor - the value of the companies will inevitably be diminished by its lack of interest. But if it buys the smaller of the two, Nat-

ional Power's future viability may be threatened.

This is because it will be saddled with debts, while Lord Hanson's conglomerate has deep pockets from which to fund future expansion, particularly by putting up combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power stations which are cheaper to build and operate.

"Anybody who had the money to buy a generator and build those CCGTs could establish themselves as market leaders within 15 years," said another analyst.

"If PowerGen is bought, National Power itself could become unsaleable. The implications for National Power are all seriously negative."

Union anger, page 25

Brittan to lead study into suspected aid for UK plant

## EC to investigate Toyota land price

From MICHAEL BINION IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner for competition policy, is to open an investigation into the sale of land for the proposed Toyota plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, on the suspicion that the site has been offered at less than market price.

Such an incentive, Sir Leon announced, would constitute an illegal state aid, as Derbyshire is not an area eligible for regional aid. "The commission considers that there appears to be no justification for it in community terms," a statement said.

The commission does not suspect the British government of paying a subsidy to Toyota or determining the price fixed for the land sales. It is investigating only possible aid from local authorities, which are also bound by EC rules on state aids.

Derbyshire County Council is said to have sold a 280-acre site, formerly an old

airport, at a discount of almost £10,000 per acre. The district valuer, an independent public official employed by the Inland Revenue, assessed the land at £43,000 per acre, with a total of £12.6 million for the site. The council sold it to Toyota for £9.9 million, or £35,357 per acre.

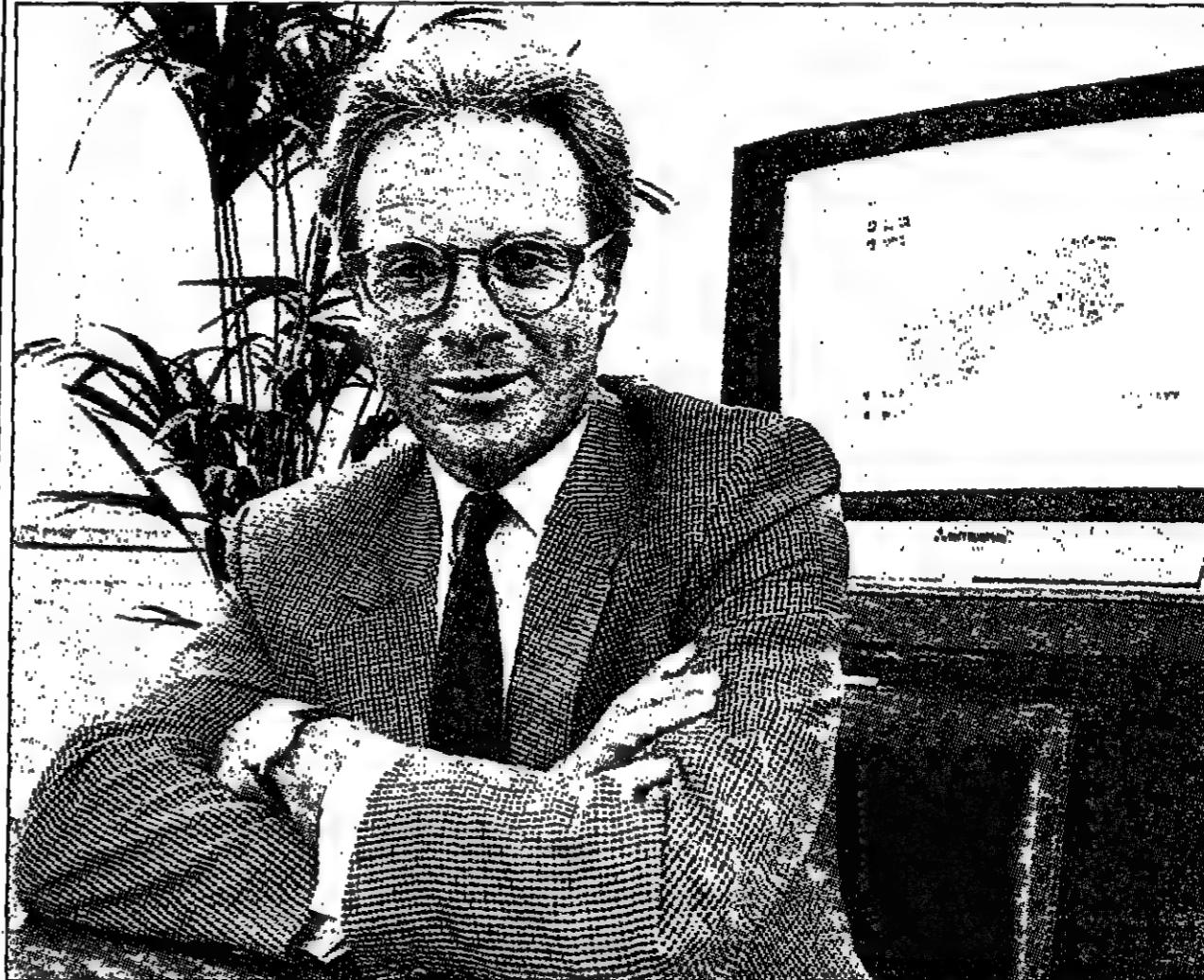
Brussels said this difference constituted state aid that should have been notified to the commission under a 1989 law relating to state aid to the motor industry. The county council has also sold a 300-acre adjoining piece of land to Toyota. The commission has opened an inquiry into this sale to discover whether any state aid was included.

Observers believe Sir Leon has come under pressure to undertake a well-publicised investigation of the Toyota deal to demonstrate his impartiality towards his native country.

The commission announced yesterday that it will begin monitoring all large

## Aegis tunes in with £34.6m

ALAN WELLER



Peter Scott, chairman and chief executive of Aegis, the former advertising agency that has become a media buyer, yesterday announced profits up 58 per cent to £34.6 million, against £21.9 million, in the half-year to end-June. The interim 2.75p dividend is a 67 per cent rise on the 1.65p paid last year. *Tempus*, page 25

### Poor result at Budgens hits shares

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BUDGENS, the supermarket group, which gave a profit warning three weeks ago, reported pre-tax profits, clean of property, of £2.76 million for the year to end-April, but after stripping out all exceptional profits and costs the group made a loss of £1.5 million.

The figures were worse than some analysts had been expecting. Forecasts had been reduced to £3 million clean of property and exceptional after the profits warning. The shares fell 5p to 55p yesterday, their low point for the year.

Budgens reported pre-tax profits, including £9.1 million of property profits of £1.8 million for the year to April, against £16.4 million for the 70 weeks to April 1989. Sales fell from £381 million to £291 million and earnings per share fell from 14p to 10.8p. A final dividend of 3p maintains the payout at 5p for the year.

John Fletcher, chairman and chief executive, said that the £135 million aborted bid from William Low, the Scottish supermarket company, last year had disrupted the business. Problems with the distribution centre had cost the group £4.41 million. It would be some time before sales recovered fully from the problems. He expected minimal profit in the current year's first half, with a significant improvement in the second.

### Major's remarks hurt pound

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE pound slid in foreign exchange markets as dealers expressed their disappointment with remarks made by John Major, the chancellor, in the Commons on Tuesday. Dealers were unhappy at his failure to mention Britain's plans for membership of the European Monetary System.

Sterling fell steeply over-

night as traders in New York and Tokyo took their profits. After opening 0.7 down on the effective rate index at 93, it was steady for most of the day in London, closing at 92.9.

Against the dollar it was down 1.5 cents at \$1.8095, and against the mark down 2.19 pfennigs at DM2.9338.

In evidence to the Treasury select committee yesterday, Mr Major reaffirmed his

## £1 BILLION PROPERTY OPPORTUNITIES

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The one organisation is the Commission for the New Towns. For further information dial 100 and ask for Freephone CNT Property Centre.

COMMISSION FOR THE NEW TOWNS  
 PO BOX 176, LONDON SW15 1BU

## Berisford sells US jewellery business

By GRAHAM SEARLENT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

**BERISFORD** International, the diversified sugar group hit by losses on American property ventures, has abandoned discussions on a management buyout of its British property business.

Berisford said it had ended the discussions, which had been going on for several months, to start talks with other potential buyers. In the six months to end-March, Berisford's British property interests made a loss of £10.9 million after writing off £12.5 million on an up-to-date valuation by Richard Ellis.

The previously announced sale of the NGI jewellery business in America has been completed for \$29 million. Berisford has sold the assets of NGI, but not the company, which is pursuing a theft insurance claim in the courts for more than double the sale price of the business.

John Slater, the chairman, said: "The disposal, on satisfactory terms, of NGI is particularly encouraging in view of our past losses."

Associated British Foods, which owns 24 per cent of Berisford, has been in discussions over British Sugar, but there have been no talks in the past two weeks. Talks are going on with other parties over various parts of the group.

Berisford shares, a weak market of late, recovered by 2p to 56p.

### Broad Street to raise £1.4m

THE rights issue at Broad Street Group, the public relations company at which James Gulliver is to step down as chairman soon, will be a one-for-four basis at 18p. Most of the issue, which is to raise about £1.4 million, is being underwritten by the 29.9 per cent shareholder, Boulet Dru Pupuy Petit, the French advertising agency. Philip Dunne, an associate of Mr Gulliver, will join Broad Street's board to look after Mr Gulliver's interests until his holding is reduced. The shares yesterday remained at 18p.

## BA cleared for take-off in link with Sabena

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has cleared the first hurdle in the path of its planned involvement with Sabena World Airlines. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday ruled the move would not be against the public interest.

The MMC had been asked to investigate BA's proposed 20 per cent stake in the Brussels airline after rival airlines claimed the link could be anti-competitive and against the public interest.

After a three-month investigation, the MMC also concluded that there would also be "substantial benefits" to British consumers in the plans, now being drawn up for the future growth and development of SWA.

BA took its stake, costing £34 million, in December. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines also took 20 per cent while Sabena retained 60 per cent.

The idea was to develop a "hub and spoke" operation at Zaventem airport in Brussels that would link 75 provincial cities in Europe, including 14 in the United Kingdom, by flying passengers into the one airport and out again with the minimum of waiting time when transferring aircraft.

Several airlines protested, arguing that such close cooperation between three of the biggest airlines in Europe and the potential predatory powers it gave them must be against the interests of rival operators and the travelling public.

The MMC agreed that competition between BA and Sabena on the existing Brussels-Heathrow route was "less than vigorous", but decided that any possibility of them raising fares was constrained by the regulatory powers of the Civil Aviation Authority. The MMC also decided that British Midland, one of the most vocal opponents, could compete by using its licence to fly in competition with BA and Sabena if it wished.

However, the MMC was concerned about "the shortcoming in the present arrangements for slot allocation at both Heathrow and Gatwick", regarding these as restricting competition.

But the matter does not fall



The way ahead: MMC told Lord King the link with SWA has "substantial benefits"

### How the Brussels hub would work

THE main object of the link is to fly business from any one of 75 European cities to any other of the cities and back again within a day.

SWA plans either two or three waves of aircraft arriving daily in Brussels and then flying on to other destinations. The first operations are planned for the summer of 1991. A full timetable would

be in place by 1995. Sabena's short-haul fleet would be increased from 24 to 66 aircraft and its long-haul operations from 11 to 19.

This would enable 400

aircraft flights a day to operate in and out of Brussels.

Where the hub differs is in the development of regional services. The four London area

airports plus Southampton,

within the MMC's jurisdiction and the director general of fair trading is making enquiries to establish whether new competition legislation is necessary.

The MMC said that if, in the meantime, the new service was operated in a predatory way, the CAA and competition authorities would be able to deal with the abuse.

BA was delighted with the decision. A spokesman for the airline said: "It is a victory for the customer and for competition."

The monopolies com-

mission hurdle was not as daunting as that created by the European Commission, which is taking a broader look at the proposed link between the three airlines.

The commission's report is expected to be published in September or October.

BA has already made it clear that if it is prevented by bureaucratic pressure from Brussels from implementing what it is convinced is a good scheme, it will simply pull out altogether and not become involved in any horse trading to try to find a compromise.

The monopolies com-

Norwich, Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, East Midlands, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast would be linked directly to Brussels. Connecting flights would be guaranteed to places as far apart as Helsinki and Valencia.

Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall each have a seat on the SWA ten-man board.

Lord King has "abated" or reduced 14 claims in line with its rules that provide for payment in full of the first £30,000 and 90 per cent of the next £20,000.

The last seven firms declared in default by the compensation scheme all belonged to Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

Mr Ray said that the scheme had been in discussion with Fimbra and the Securities and Investments Board on what had led to the failures.

Mr Ray suggested guidelines for investors including not giving money to businesses not authorised to take clients' money.

## Dunsdale claims to be heard

By A CORRESPONDENT

**DUNSDALE** Securities, which collapsed owing £17 million, was officially declared in default by the Investors Compensation Scheme yesterday.

This means that the scheme will consider claims from Dunsdale investors, although it will not be able to pay them more than £43,000 each. Some had invested £1 million or more. There will also be a delay of some months before the scheme can get at Dunsdale's records, which are currently held by the Serious Fraud Office.

Eddie Ray, the scheme chairman, said that claims relating to investment business with Dunsdale before the start of the scheme on August 28, 1988, could be considered "subject to the quality of the evidence". An investor would have to have proof of money paid to the firm, and statements or other confirmation that the investments or supposed investments were still held by it on that date.

"It does not matter if the investments were never bought," said Mr Ray, explaining that the scheme had already paid out in cases in which people had been wrongly led to believe that collapsed firms had been holding their securities for them.

The compensation scheme has paid out 1,008 claims totalling £3.6 million in its 23 months of operation. It esti-

mated yesterday that compensation and management costs during the coming year will total £7.1 million.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### BTR buys Canadian paper companies

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, is strengthening its paper interests with a Can\$130 million (£61.7 million) cash takeover of two Canadian companies. BTR is buying Niagara Lockport Industries Quebec and Niagara Lockport Industries from Ivaco Inc, which will form part of BTR's paper group. The Canadian companies make paper machine clothing, a vacuum-engineered forming, pressing and drying machine that transforms pulp slurry into finished paper.

The takeover will give BTR five manufacturing plants in the United States and Canada and net assets of Can\$110 million. The acquisitions are subject to the approval of the American and Canadian authorities. Bob Faircloth, an executive BTR director, says North America still offers BTR long-term opportunities for investment and growth. BTR shares fell 13p to 41p after the news.

### Big outflow at unit trusts

UNIT trusts last month recorded their biggest net outflow of funds, at £63.8 million. The figure resulted from an exceptional technical distortion caused by £243 million of redemptions by two life assurance companies, Allied Dunbar and Standard Life, which were transferring holdings from units to direct holdings of shares.

### Worthington leaps

AT WORTHINGTON (Holdings), the textiles manufacturer and knitwear importers, reports a jump in pre-tax profits from £10,000 to £465,000 for the year to end-March. Turnover increased by 51 per cent to £5.82 million.

The results were boosted by a first-time contribution from Steinberger Holdings, the supplier of buttons, trimmings and shoulder pads to the clothing industry, which was acquired last August. Earnings per share climbed 57 per cent to 3.3p. The first and final dividend is improved 25 per cent to 0.625p. The shares firmed 5p to 45p on the news.

### Premiums up at Refuge

### New French deal for Cape

REFUGE Group, the Manchester life assurance company, enjoyed a 41 per cent rise in premiums to £50.5 million in the first half of this year. The main increase came from sales of Canterbury Life's income bonds, which rose 39 per cent to £14.4 million. Unit trusts attracted investments of £7.93 million (£500,000).

### Fimbra bans firm

A NORTHERN Irish firm of investment advisers has been ordered to cease trading by Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association. Edward J McCann, Broker, of Mandeville Street, Portadown, Co Armagh, has been suspended under Fimbra's Rule 17, preventing it from conducting or soliciting new business or disposing of assets.

Edward J McCann joined Fimbra in March last year. He was authorised to advise on a range of investments and handle client money.

### Warning follows leap to record £11.1m at Misys

By PHILIP PANGALOS

ACQUISITIONS helped pre-tax profits at Misys, the USM computer systems group, to jump 97 per cent to a record £11.1 million in the year to end-May. However, the company gave a warning that its customers are postponing investment until the economy improves.

However, the company said that despite healthy growth in upgrade business, and recurring revenues, sales fell at Misys Datafile, which supplies the insurance and financial services sectors, resulting in a reduced contribution to profits.

Interest payable was £248,000, against income of £72,000 last time, although the company has no gear.

Mr Lomax said that 64 per cent of net income comes from contracted income and sales to existing customers, which is a "resilient and predictable business."

Mark Lambert, of County NatWest, expects a flat first half, with full-year pre-tax profits forecast to climb to about £12.5 million.

Misys' shares, which were trading above 45p a year ago, slipped 5p to 17.5p.

## Savills falls to £3.49m after second-half slump

By MARTIN WALLER

**SAVILLS**, the estate agent, made pre-tax profits of just £546,000 in the second half, dragging the total for the year down to £3.49 million, against £6.52 million before.

The company refuses to break down its interim figures, but the residential side, marginally profitable in the first half, lost £494,000 at the operating level in the full year to end-April. George Inge, the chairman, said this was despite some upturn in the residential market in January and February though it had petered out.

He added that the London residential market had picked up recently and was in profit. The country house sector was still extremely flat.

The agency had benefited from a share in the £10 million sale of a house in Eton Square by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the impresario, during the year. A town house in Mayfair had also been sold for £6 million.

However, the Commerzbank bank plans to have a staff of 600 in the East by the end of the year.

The figures were disclosed by Walter Seipp, the chairman, with the bank's interim results to the end of June.

Group operating profits

rose 17.5 per cent to £611 million, recovering from a flat performance last year.

Commerzbank's assets rose 4 per cent to DM198 billion.

However, the Commerzbank risks losing its position as Germany's third largest bank after last week's merger of Bayerische Vereinsbank and Vereins-und Westbank, which have combined assets of DM195 billion.

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**C**ontinental carmakers' campaign to protect their national markets from Japanese competition by fair means or foul is relentless. The European Commission's opinion that the sale of land to build the Toyota factory near Derby was an unfair subsidy can only be explained as yet another attempt to harry Britain's new Japanese-owned motor factories. It certainly does not make sense in terms of Sir Leon Brittan's high profile campaign to cut discretionary state subsidies to industry.

If the sale of the 280-acre airfield site by Derbyshire County Council for £18.3 million was below market value, that was at least within the realms of arguments between valuers. The amounts involved were also insignificant in terms of a £700 million project.

The commission seems to have started an investigation on the strength of an anonymous letter in February. In doing so, Sir Leon has shown no consistency.

If he really wanted to look at distorting subsidies, he should turn to the giant theme park

complexes for which European countries are now competing. The proposed MCA film/leisure complex is likely to go either to the Essex marshes or Paris according to which government comes up with the best subsidy offers. The winner is likely to have to pay out about £250 million in land reclamation, transport links or other subsidies.

The French government's lure for Euro Disneyland was even more striking. Apart from providing free high-speed rail links, generous tax breaks and planning aids to maintaining monopoly, it sold EuroDisney about 4,800 acres at 1971 farm prices.

Perhaps the EC, in pandering to烟熏 interventionists, does not regard leisure as an industry. Owners of hotels and attractions in areas from which customers of the subsidised complexes will be drawn might remind him that their competitive business is being

distorted without Brussels showing any noticeable interest.

### Damn lies

**A** working party of the Royal Statistical Society has been studying the alleged "crisis of confidence" in government statistics. According to Professor Peter Moore, the working party's chairman, "There is a widely held view by the public at large that much statistical information is not of the quality that many users would expect and that, in some instances, it is being used subjectively in the domain of public policy".

Few will dissent from Mr Moore's analysis, but solutions are another matter. It would be nice to think, as the society seems

to, that the answer was simply to wave a wand over the way the collection of statistics is organised. In a report published yesterday, the society recommends a four-part package involving greater centralisation and control, a new research unit to strengthen methodology, the creation of an advisory national statistical commission to bridge the gap between statisticians and the providers and users of statistics, and a new statistics act to safeguard statisticians' autonomy.

The problem, however, surely lies more with the quality of statistics than with the independence of statisticians. As the former head of the Central Statistical Office, Sir Claus Moser, said, politicians have always wanted to influence statistics and no doubt always

will. Redefining the unemployment statistics to achieve a miraculous fall in the numbers out of work may be crude, but so long as the nature of the changes is not concealed it is difficult to say that the public has been misled.

The more serious deficiencies are in the numbers themselves. If Nigel Lawson had known in the spring of 1988 how rapidly demand was growing, interest rates would surely have gone up rather than down and taxes would have been cut by less. If we knew how to allocate the £15 billion "balancing item" for errors and omissions in the balance of payments, Britain's current account deficit might look radically different, although in what direction we cannot be sure.

The costs of bad policy decisions are incalculable. It must be right, as the chancellor has promised, to devote more resources to calculating key

statistics if it is clear that by spending more the figures will be more accurate. But neither money nor independence by themselves will necessarily buy truth.

### Easy Street

**T**he rights issue that may leave BDDP, the French advertising agency, with a controlling stake of almost half in the Broad Street PR group is yet another example of Gallic ingenuity in gaining control of London-quoted companies without making a bid or paying a bid premium. The Woodchester finance group has just gone the same way, although perhaps the most notorious case was the "merger" of the former Metal Box packaging interests into the French-controlled CMB packaging group. It is all perfectly legitimate. The rights issue route, like the reverse takeover, routinely gains a Takeover Panel waiver from a compulsory bid under Rule 9 of the takeover code provided shareholders vote for the issue.

**JOHN** Wakeham, the energy secretary, told power industry employees' representatives, when we met him, that he had no alternative but to consider an offer for PowerGen if Hanson made one. This, however, is not so.

All he had to do was rest on government policy, established by his predecessor, Cecil Parkinson, that no person or organisation would be allowed to hold more than 15 per cent of the share value of PowerGen, National Power or the Scottish companies. It was, Mr Parkinson explained to parliament and ourselves, a "timeless" commitment. In fact, it has lasted less than two years.

That pledge to parliament and the public was also a pledge to the staff of the companies concerned. The great majority of them have (rightly, in my view) never believed that privatisation of electricity supply would benefit the public. But the staff accepted the political decision and got on with running the industry efficiently, while simultaneously turning it upside down to suit the government's ever-changing plans. (Incidentally, the sheer professionalism with which management and staff have done this is a staggering achievement, of which no-one outside the industry has any concept.)

Everyone did this in the firm belief that they would be members of free-standing companies owned by a wide section of the British public. If it had been known that it was all to enable their companies to be auctioned to the highest bidder, I think the attitude would have been very different. The government's breach of faith has not only been with the public, but with the industry's employees.

Perhaps that breach has been with the staff of PowerGen. Now that Mr Wakeham has indicated that National Power, as well, can be sold as a job lot if there is a bidder, its employees may find themselves in the same boat, as may the staff of the two Scottish companies waiting to be floated.

Attention has so far been focused on the interest in PowerGen by Hanson. However, it emerged on Monday that PowerGen and National Power could be bought by foreign owners if any come up

## Power sale fails tests of honour and competence



**John Lyons:** government is guilty of breach of faith

with a suitable bid. Who envisaged that when Mr Parkinson proudly unveiled his white paper in February 1988?

If one looks back at the process of privatising electricity supply, one sees a wretched tale of uncompromising incompetence from the beginning, going far beyond the unforgivable mismanagement of the country's nuclear industry.

Originally, the obligation to supply (to plan ahead to ensure adequate supplies of electricity for the future) was transferred from the Central Electricity Generating Board to the distribution companies. That has since been scrapped. A totally untested market mechanism (resting on the

now, we have the volte-face that may lead to the sale of one

generator, at least, by auction, when it was intended at the start that the British people should be able to buy shares in all parts of the industry. True, they already own it, but little conceptual difficulties like that have been effortlessly obliterated.

The fundamental flaw in the whole concept, however, has been the view that generation of electricity is a suitable activity for competition. It is not, and cannot be. The risk (and cost) associated with generating electricity is too great for anyone to engage in it without a guaranteed market. As John Harris, chairman of East Midlands Electricity, said in *The Observer* on July 22: "New generating companies need long-term contracts to secure a place in the market".

Without long-term contracts, the risk is too great. With them, you cannot have real competition (except at the margin). That is the sub of the matter, and the government has proceeded with its plans for privatisation oblivious of that simple truth. In every other advanced industrial country, generation of electricity is based on a territorial monopoly, irrespective of whether it is a private or public monopoly.

This fundamental misconception about the nature of generating led the government to deny National Power and PowerGen the opportunity to strike long-term contracts for supplies in order to "make room" for others to enter the market.

However, while (as we forecast) "the others" are not coming in, except at the margin, National Power and PowerGen have been seen by the City and others as relatively risky investments, even though the value of their assets has been slashed to ridiculous levels to make them a suitable giveaway.

The outcome of all this, by the way, will be, as we have predicted from the start, higher-cost electricity, less reliably supplied. I hope that the public will understand why so many of the staff of a company like this are disenchanted by what has been done to it.

**John Lyons**  
General Secretary  
Engineers' and Managers' Association

In the second half, Lasmo can reasonably expect better

LASMO outperformed the FT-All Share Index by 8 per cent in the first half of 1990, and the oil sector by 13 per cent. Against that background, interim net profits of £32 million, a clear £2 million below expectations, were a poor reward for followers of the stock.

Weak sterling oil prices during the second quarter, virtually unchanged from last year, and the slow recovery of production from the Claymore field in the North Sea played a key role in restricting growth.

There was also a notable absence of new discoveries and net probable and proven reserves were unchanged at 433 million barrels of oil-equivalent. With daily production rising to an average of 81,700 barrels of oil-equivalent, a record, amortisation increased by 53 per cent to £51.2 million, almost double the rate of increase in operating costs.

The 2.2p interim dividend was also lower than anticipated, although Chris Green tree, the chief executive, would argue that shareholders should not expect to benefit from possible reserves which have not yet been tapped.

Mr Green tree has been a consistent oil price hawk, and with the Middle East launching towards another political crisis, his argument that prices will inevitably trend upwards are difficult to refute.

He is also confident that Lasmo's aggressive exploration and development in frontier areas such as Vietnam and Indonesia will come good. Better news is expected during the second half.

Financially, Lasmo is stronger than ever before. Capital expenditure doubled to £109 million, but cash flow from operations rose from £41 million to £74 million. The £10 million notes, received in return for the Enterprise stake less than two years ago, generated £24.4 million, which, with foreign exchange gains and other investment income, fully offset an interest charge of £36 million.

In the second half, Lasmo

average prices than the £17.73 per barrel of oil received during the first six months. In the North Sea, Claymore should return to peak production levels before year-end.

Full-year net income of £71 million is within striking distance, putting the shares, down 3p to 445p, after touching 460p, on a prospective p/e of 22.8. They look fully-valued and profits should be taken at the first hint of oil price weakness.

### Hepworth

**N**OBODY gets wind of a change in the housebuilding market sooner than Hepworth. As the manufacturer of four in every five clay pipes for the British construction industry, it has its own built-in early warning system.

So it was that Hepworth was preparing for a downturn in housing before the end of 1988, and is today weathering the storm better than most, if not all, of its competitors.

Profits of £50.1 million for the first half of 1990, against £53.3 million, can be hailed as an achievement in the building supplies sector.

Just how badly its main competitors are faring will not be known for another month or two, but it is hard to find an encouraging word for the prospects of the likes of Marley and Norcros.

Profits from Hepworth's home products in Britain, its Glow-worm and Parkway equipment, dropped by a fifth to about £8 million as the number of people moving home fell by 45 per cent.

Returns from the industrial and commercial sector held up, although conditions are slowly starting to deteriorate. The big success was the overseas market, now contributing 42 per cent of turnover and 35 per cent of profits.

Overseas profits almost compensated for the downturn, caused by the housing downturn in Britain. May and June revenues failed to cover the financing costs of April's £153 million acquisition of Saunier Duval, the gas boiler firm, but as the weather cools in the autumn that firm should start regenerating.

Nevertheless, the group will be resigned to making less money this year than last, and will do well to top £100 million before tax. Debt stood at £76 million at end-June, representing a gearing level of 53 per cent. By year-end it should be trimmed back below 50 per cent.

Hepworth shares have rallied powerfully since the widely-expected April acquisition, and at 305p, sell for more than nine times earnings. They deserve the rating, and not just for the 6.5 per cent yield.

**Aegis**

**A**EGIS, the former WCRS advertising agency, looks ever more like the McDonald's of media buying. The £9 million acquisition of Media Holdings International, Scandinavia's largest media buyer, means that within Europe, only Greece and, rather strangely, the Netherlands have yet to be penetrated by the ever-

expanding Aegis network – although not for long, if industry gossip is anything to go by.

Where other British companies are merely talking, Aegis has already acted. About DM20 million of East German business has already been transacted by the company, and there are plans in progress to attack the Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovak markets once their television stations have been privatised.

With interim pre-tax profits bang on target at £34.6 million, 38 per cent up on last year, the analysts are happy with progress to date, even if they still do not quite understand the Aegis animal. Full-year profits forecasts are unusually closely bunched at a million or so on either side of £70 million, and for the time being the market is happy to believe the management's story of an ever-growing and more complex European media-buying market.

Neither will there be any complaints about the dividend, which, in line with the company's stated policy of matching the market yield, was increased by 58 per cent to 2.75p, well ahead of the 31 per cent increase in earnings per share to 17.5p.

A re-rating has been predicted since last year's extraordinarily complex restructuring, which transformed the group from yet another set of initials in a bombed-out sector to the market leader in a high-growth industry. A 15 per cent increase in the share price over the past six weeks suggests that this may now be under way, with perhaps another 10 per cent to come. That would take the multiple up to around the eight mark, still well below the market, but well ahead of the rubbish in the sector.

The Paris listing planned for later this year may be another plus point. About 35 per cent of the shares are in French hands, and media buyers are rated in the high teens on the French market.

With the interest charge covered a healthy five times, the shares look good value for the short term.

## USSR to clear German debt with Bonn aid

**T**HE Soviet Union will pay back all its outstanding debt to West German companies by the end of next week, according to Dr Leonid Abalkin, the deputy Soviet prime minister.

Dr Abalkin said at a meeting with West German businessmen in Bonn that the DM1.5 billion which is currently owed to West German companies, about DM1 billion has already been paid back with the balance to be repaid during the next few days.

Dr Abalkin's announcement came less than two weeks after Dr Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, agreed to provide a government guarantee for a DM3 billion commercial bank loan to the Soviet Union.

The funds to repay the debts will come directly out of this loan, which has resulted in the ironic situation that West German banks will indirectly pay for Soviet debt to West German companies, all guaranteed by the West German government.

The Soviet Union, until the end of last year regarded as one of the world's most respected payers of international debts, ran out of foreign currency reserves at the beginning of this year.

The backlog of debt, in particular with companies from West Germany, the Soviet Union's largest Western trading partner, has already led to a downturn in

trade between the two countries.

Particularly hard hit were West Germany's chemical industry and small- to medium-sized companies which were heavily exposed to Soviet

drugs.

At least one small company has been forced to go out of business as a result of the repayment difficulties.

Dr Klaus Flath, a Soviet Union specialist at the Bonn economics ministry, said:

● German banks will indirectly pay for Soviet debts to German companies, guaranteed by the Bonn government.

"The Soviet Union is in the process of repaying accumulated debts in tranches. It is a very encouraging sign."

But when asked whether the Soviet Union's payment problems might return once the DM5 billion of funds guaranteed by West Germany has run out, he answered: "Probably yes."

He added that the guarantee is not aimed to provide a definite solution to the Soviet debt problem, but is meant only to give the country some breathing space until an international arrangement, involving the European community or the G7 countries, has been worked out.

During the community

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Former foes in Paribas camp

**P**ETER Grodzinski, the specialist property salesman who styles himself "Grody" on his business cards, has been out of the limelight since MEPC took over Oldham Estates, the master company of the legendary Harry Hyams. Each year Grody would take a freshly-cooked pastry from the family bakery to Oldham Estate's annual meeting, and present it with a great deal of ceremony to the ever charming, if secretive, Mr Hyams. Grody was still at Hoare Govett when it defended Hammerson, the British property group, from a hostile takeover bid by Rodamco, the Dutch investment group, but he is about to find himself as one of his former adversaries. Grody, aged 40 and bearded, left Hoare Govett after ten years and, on Monday, starts work at Banque Paribas. Another recruit to the London office of the French bank is Jan Vet, also a property salesman, who was previously employed by Rodamco. With Vet due to start in August, after he has completed a French language course, it will mean that Paribas now has a three-strong property sales team to work alongside analysts Naresh Gudka and Ray Jones. "Prop-

erty has long been an area of expertise for us as a broker, going right back to the old Quilter days," says a spokesman, "and Paribas is also strongly aligned to the property sector as a bank, not just in France but all over the world." Another well-known City character, Noel Mercer, the British equity salesman, is also joining Paribas. Mercer, an Irishman, aged 41, resigned from Panmure Gordon in May, after 11 years with the firm, following a difference of opinion over management. He was one of the firm's biggest commission earners. "We are delighted that he is coming on board," says Chris Cartwright, head of equities at Paribas.

**Caps off to Walker**

**G**EORGE Walker, the chairman of Brent Walker, who, with his brother Billy, was once better known as a boxer, is still fighting fit, both personally and corporately. Walker, aged 61, who acknowledges that most companies are increasingly talking about recession, claims that his flourishing leisure group has yet to feel the pinch. "People might not be moving house or even going away on holiday, but they are certainly spending money when it comes to a night out," he says. "Our beer sales are up, our hotel occu-

pancy is up and the average drop in our casinos has also increased." But he admits that the real reason they are not suffering is because he had the foresight to cap most of Brent Walker's borrowings when interest rates were below 10 per cent. "I remember 1974 and 1981 and the one thing I learned then is that I can live with 10 per cent money, but not 17, 18 or 20 per cent like last time. It nearly sank Brent Walker. So now every time I can cap at below 10 per cent I do so. When rates were 8 per cent I couldn't wait to recap at 8.5 per cent. If I can cap at rates like that for seven years, I know I'm going to be safe." Of Walker's £725 million of debts, £600 million are, he says, now capped at an average rate of 9.7 per cent.





## THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Eqd	Offer	Cong	Vid	Eqd	Offer	Cong	Vid	Eqd	Offer	Cong	Vid	Eqd	Offer	Cong	Vid	Eqd	Offer	Cong	Vid	Eqd	Offer	Cong	Vid		
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ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	102.85	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	512.05	523.3C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	103.25	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	512.45	523.7C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	103.65	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	512.85	524.1C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	104.05	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	513.25	524.5C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	104.45	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	513.65	524.9C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	104.85	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	514.05	525.3C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	105.25	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	514.45	525.7C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	105.65	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	514.85	526.1C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	106.05	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	515.25	526.5C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	106.45	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	515.65	526.9C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	106.85	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	516.05	527.3C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	107.25	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	516.45	527.7C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	107.65	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	516.85	528.1C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	108.05	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	517.25	528.5C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	108.45	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	517.65	528.9C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	108.85	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	518.05	529.3C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	109.25	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	518.45	529.7C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	109.65	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	518.85	530.1C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	110.05	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	519.25	530.5C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	110.45	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	519.65	530.9C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	110.85	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	520.05	531.3C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	111.25	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	520.45	531.7C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT				Intl Fd Int	111.65	107.25 +0.24	2.22	Do Acc	520.85	532.1C+0.2	4.00	0403 825 00 15 00 00 00									
ARMY UNIT TRUST TRUST				CAPEL JUNIOR MANAGEMENT	</																				

## **UNLISTED SECURITIES**

TO THE CHIEF, 1200 FEET DEEP

#### CLUB MARKET

With Euro	With DLR	Previous	Open	Interest	Trade
91.84	91.57	91.63	91.66	22	
91.47	91.50	91.46	91.49	24	

LONDON OIL REPORTS			
Crude oil prices drifted sideways today, and are expected to hold during the Opec meeting which starts tomorrow. They were similarly apathetic, posting few changes on a quiet day.			
<b>CRUDE OILS/assessed (\$/BBL FOB)</b>			
Brent Plyrs	18.95	-10	IEP FUTU
15 day Aug	19.15	-15	GAS OIL AMT
15 day Sep	19.50	-05	Aug
WTI Sep	20.65	-15	Sep
WTI Oct	21.15		Oct
<b>PRODUCTS Buy/sell \$/MT.</b>			
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery			
Prem Gas 15	-2	250-260	-1
Gasoil EEC	173-174		-1
Non 1H Aug	175-176		Jah
Non 1H Sep	177-178		Feb
3.5 Fuel Oil	74-76		Vol
Naphtha	-1	166-168	-1
<b>BIFFEX</b>			
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$/t/pt)			
Jul 80	Ht 1150-1150	Low	Close 1148
Aug 90	Ht 1184-1170	Low	Close 1170
Oct 90	Ht 1285-1265	Low	Close 1283
Jan 91	Ht 1310-1280	Low	Close 1280
Vol 214 Intc			
Open Interest 4825			
<b>LONDON PC FUTURES (C)</b>			
Min	Open		
Now		85.5	
Now		82.5	
Apr		128.5	
May		140.5	

## COMMODITIES

LONDON OIL REPORTS			
Crude oil prices drifted sideways today, and are expected to stabilize during the Opec meeting which starts tomorrow. They were similarly apathetic, posting few changes on a quiet day.			
<b>CRUDE OILS/Assessed (\$/BBL FOB)</b>			
Brent Phys	18.95	-10	IPE FUTU
15 day Aug	19.15	-15	GAS OIL AMT
15 day Sep	19.50	-05	Aug
WTI Sep	20.65	-15	Sep
WTI Cct	21.15		Oct
<b>PRODUCTS Buy/sell £/MT.</b>			
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery			
Prem Gas 15	-2	258-260	-1
Gasoil EEC		173-174	-1
Non 1H Aug		175-176	
Non 1H Sep		177-178	
3.5 Fuel Oil		74-75	
Naphtha	-1	166-168	-1
<b>BITTUX</b>			
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$10/pdt)			
Jul 80	Hi 1160-1150	Low Close 1148	LONDON PC
Aug 90	Hi 1184-1170	Low Close 1170	FUTURES (2)
Oct 90	Hi 1295-1260	Low Close 1283	Min
Jan 91	Hi 1310-1280	Low Close 1280	Open
(Vol 214 Intc)			
	Open Interest 4935		Nov
	Vol 100		Dec
	Vol 100		Apr
	Vol 100		May
	Vol 100		Jun
	Vol 100		Jul
	Vol 100		Aug
	Vol 100		Sep
	Vol 100		Oct
	Vol 100		Nov
	Vol 100		Dec

THE JOURNAL OF CLIMATE

LONDON OIL REPORTS			
Crude oil prices drifted sideways today, and are expected to stabilize during the Opec meeting which starts tomorrow. They were similarly apathetic, posting few changes on a quiet day.			
<b>CRUDE OILS/Assessed (\$/BBL FOB)</b>			
Brent Phys	18.95	-10	IPE FUTU
15 day Aug	19.15	-15	GAS OIL AMT
15 day Sep	19.50	-05	Aug
WTI Sep	20.65	-15	Sep
WTI Cct	21.15		Oct
<b>PRODUCTS Buy/sell £/MT.</b>			
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery			
Prem Gas 15	-2	258-260	-1
Gasoil EEC		173-174	-1
Non 1H Aug		175-176	
Non 1H Sep		177-178	
3.5 Fuel Oil		74-75	
Naphtha	-1	166-168	-1
<b>BITTUX</b>			
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$10/pdt)			
Jul 80	Hi 1160-1150	Low 1148	Open 1148
Aug 90	Hi 1184-1170	Low 1170	Close 1170
Oct 90	Hi 1295-1260	Low 1283	Close 1283
Jan 91	Hi 1310-1280	Low 1280	Close 1280
(Vol 214 Intc)			
Open Interest 4825			
<b>LONDON PC FUTURES (£)</b>			
Min	Open		
Nov		85.5	
Dec		82	
Apr		128.5	
May		140.5	

LONDON OIL REPORTS					
Crude oil prices drifted sideways today, and are expected to remain stable during the Opec meeting which starts tomorrow. Products were similarly apathetic, posting few changes on a quiet day.					
<b>CRUDE OILS/assessed (\$/BBL FOB)</b>					
Brent Prys 18.95 -10					
15 day Aug 19.15 -15					
15 day Sep 19.50 -05					
WTI Sep 20.65 -15					
WTI Crude 21.15					
<b>PRODUCTS Buy/sell £/MT.</b>					
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery					
Prem Gas 15 -2 258.00 -1					
Gasoil EEC 173.174 -1					
Non 1H Aug 175.176					
Non 1H Sep 177.178					
3.5 Fuel Oil 74.76					
Naphtha -1 156.158 -1					
<b>BIFFEX</b>					
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$10/pdt)					
Jul 80 Ht 1150-1150 Low Close 1148					
Aug 90 Ht 1184-1170 Low Close 1170					
Oct 90 Ht 1295-1265 Low Close 1283					
Jan 91 Ht 1310-1280 Low Close 1280					
Feb 91 214. Intc 4835					
<b>IPE FUTURES</b>					
GAS OIL AMT Futures					
Aug 175.75 SLR					
Sep 175.75-76.00					
Oct 177.25-77.50					
Nov 178.50-78.00					
Dec 179.75 BYR					
Jan 178.50 SLR					
Feb 175.00-75.75					
Vol 3580					
BENZENT AMT Futures					
Sep 19.30-19.35					
Oct 19.40-19.45					
Vol n/a					
<b>LONDON POTATO FUTURES (£/tonne)</b>					
Min Open Close					
Nov 85.5 83.0					
Feb 82.5 91.5					
Apr 128.5 129.0					
May 140.0 139.8					
<b>LONDON FOX</b>					
COCOA AMT Futures					
Jul 752-753 May 842-843					
Sep 764-765 Jun 850-853					
Dec 793-795 Sep 880-882					
Mar 822-824 Vol 3022					
COFFEE AMT Futures					
Jul 536-538 Mar 614-615					
Sep 556-557 May 622-625					
Nov 576-577 Jun 632-635					
Jan 694-695 Vol 2876					
SUGAR C Contract					
FOB Vol 1883					
Aug 269.0-270.0 Mar 242.0-242.2					
Oct 248.2-248.0 May 242.4-249.0					
Dec 248.0-247.0 Aug 250.0-249.6					
<b>LONDON GRAIN FUTURES</b>					
WHEAT close (£/t)					
Vol 28					
Sep 114.0 116.0 118.0 Ja 119.65					
Oct 112.85 My 126.40 Jun 127.75					
BARLEY close (£/t)					
Vol 161					
Sep 110.50 Nv 114.75 Ja 118.60					
Oct 112.50 My 122.70					
SOYABEAN AMT Futures					
Oct 100.0-10.0					
Dec 116.0-120.0					
<b>LONDON METAL EXCHANGE</b>					
Official prices/volume previous day					
(£/tonne)					
Copper Grade A 1507.5-1508.5					
Lead 472.0-472.5					
Zinc Spec H* 1582.0-1583.0					
Tin* 597.0-597.5					
Aluminium H* 1562.0-1563.0					
Nickel* 9700.0-9750.0					
1 Cent per Troy oz. (£ per tonne)					
<b>LONDON MEAT FUTURES (£/t)</b>					
<b>MEAT &amp; LIVESTOCK COMMISSION</b>					
Avg/last stock price at representative markets on July 25					
<b>LIVE HOG Contract</b>					
WHEAT close (£/kg liv)					
Aug 134.0 116.0					
Sep 116.0 113.8					
Oct 116.0 114.8					
Nov 116.0 115.0					
Live Cattle Contract					
Aug 114.0 112.0					
Sep 114.0 112.0					
Oct 114.0 112.0					
Live Cattle Commodity					
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FLUENT AND POSITIVE  
ABILITY TO OBLICKVIES  
INSTANT RAPPORT ON THE  
TELEPHONE  
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THE TIMES 27.6.90  
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Calibre: Very high  
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vacancies - The Times has 40  
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## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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PA TO MD

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You will be responsible for the day to day running of the sales office, provide secretarial services to the MD and will become involved in all aspects of a busy sales environment including dealing with people at all levels and preparing a variety of sales statistics and information. It is therefore essential that you have had previous experience in sales administration and the running of a small office.

In order to carry out these duties effectively, we expect excellent communication skills, the ability to work unsupervised and to deal with issues with discretion and tact.

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## Marketing Personnel

Perfums Yves Saint Laurent have an enviable reputation as one of the most prestigious names in fragrance and cosmetics. In order to strengthen the team in our Marketing Department, the following vacancies have arisen, based in our Mayfair offices in London.

**Promotions and Marketing Co-ordinator**  
We are looking for an experienced administrator, ideally aged 25+ with strong and proven administrative and organisational skills including word processing on Lotus 1-2-3 and the ability to use a computer terminal. The position is extremely demanding and varied and therefore a high degree of initiative and self discipline is essential, together with the ability to work in a pressurised environment.

This important role involves the co-ordination of the Company's promotional and marketing activities which includes responsibility for arranging special events, setting targets and itineraries for promotional personnel, compiling and analysing promotional results and ensuring the availability of all product and sales information for Company Sales Meetings. There will be close liaison and contact with Sales Management and Department Store personnel at all times and therefore excellent communication skills will be essential.

## Secretary/Administrator

This interesting position requires an experienced person who can provide essential secretarial and administrative support to Marketing Management. Applicants must be extremely organised and be capable of dealing speedily and accurately with a heavy and varied work load.

The ideal applicant should be aged 25+ and possess proven secretarial and administrative skills, including word processing on Multimate and the ability to use a computer terminal. Basic knowledge of French would be an advantage.

In addition to an attractive salary (commensurate with age and experience) we can offer an excellent range of company benefits which include product allocation and a non-contributory pension and life assurance scheme.

If you feel you have the qualities we are looking for, please write with full career details including current salary to the Personnel Department, Perfums Yves Saint Laurent Ltd, Victoria Gardens, Bungay Hill, West Sussex RH15 9NB or call us on Bungay Hill (0446) 254998 for an application form.

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SECRETARIAL  
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## GOODWILL GAMES

# View from top less than spectacular for in-between man

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, SEATTLE

YOU need only see one thing in Seattle to see everything, claims the brochure for the Seattle Space Needle. Rising high above the city, it offers spectacular views from its revolving observation deck.

While the Goodwill Games are on, an outsize gold medal has been hung around its neck.

Michael Johnson was content with the standard size on Tuesday, after winning the 200 metres, but his view from the top made you wonder why he had bothered to climb the steps. "The 100 metres and the 400 metres are the glamour events," he said. "The 200 is just stuck somewhere in between."

But Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis work at making the 100 metres glamorous: Johnson goes about his business quietly. Burrell and Lewis talk about world records and ex-

ude enthusiasm: Johnson does not. "I am not after the world record," he said. "This year I am only interested in winning my races."

Which is not what most of the public is interested in.

Johnson, aged 22, has had a brilliant season, losing only once and, remarkably, running 19.85sec on a chilly evening in Edinburgh. Here he ran 20.54sec to beat Robson da Silva, last year's World Cup winner, for a man representing his country for the first time, it was no less an achievement than Burrell's in beating Lewis the day before.

Johnson should have been out on the track half an hour earlier to see what a world record can do to stimulate interest. And which event was it that brought the greatest stir of the night? The women's 10 kilometres walk.

Her time was 41min 56.21sec, which was annoying for Kerry Sasby. The Australian was second in 41min 57.22sec, walking faster than ever before but losing her world record. Still, must not be greedy. Sasby has set 28 world records.

The best performance of the eight events on the fourth day – the format is a straight final in every event, with competition spread over six days – came from Yelena Romanova, another Soviet. She became the tenth fastest 5,000 metres woman of all time, and the quickest this year, with 15min 02.23sec in only her second outing at the distance.

On the previous day, Romanova had finished second to Patti Sue Plummer in the 3,000 metres. Romanova improved her best by 32sec with a last lap of 68sec. The crowd knew they were on to a good thing as soon as it was announced that their only golden girl, Mary Slaney, was about to lose her record for the fastest time run in the United States.

The Games continue to be advertised as "a unification of the best athletes in the world". Without one Briton here, that is a gross misrepresentation. Like a US Open without

## Dominant Biondi adds fourth gold

SEATTLE (Reuter) – Matt Biondi, who has been an Olympic champion five times, won two gold medals to bring his total to four, while newcomer Summer Sanders added her first.

Earlier in the meet, Sanders upset Olympic champions Janet Evans, in the 400 metres individual medley, and Daniela Hunger, of East Germany, in the 200 metres individual medley. "I'm shocked. I didn't think I had a chance at one gold, let alone three," Sanders said.

An expert close contest in the men's 1,500 metres freestyle failed to materialise at the East German, Jon Hoffman, won in a kickstart 15min 11.14sec.

Mariah Stelmann gave the East German women their only individual gold medal of the five-day swimming competition, winning the 200 metres freestyle in 2min 02.38sec, the fastest time this year. American swimmers dominated the competition, winning 20 gold, 18 silver and four bronze medals.

Biondi, aged 24, who also picked up a silver medal, now holds the nine best times ever in the 100 metres freestyle, and has not been beaten in the event since 1984.

"I think I had a great performance here," Biondi said. "I really worked hard and wanted to show everybody here how good Matt Biondi is. I did not do everything I wanted to do here and that's a little disappointing."

Biondi said he had geared his training towards setting a world record in the 100 metres butterfly, and that he would not compete in the American national championships later this month in Texas. He finished a

## RESULTS FROM SEATTLE

ATHLETICS: Men: 200m: M. Johnson (US), 20.54sec; 400m: R. Hernandez (Cuba), 44.78; 3,000m steeplechase: B. Diemer (US), 8min 42.24sec; Javelin: V. Romanova (USSR), 64.70m; Discus: D. O'Brien (US), 44.70m; Women: 5,000m: 1, Y. Romanova (USSR), 15min 02.23sec; 8, V. Medvedeva (USSR), 16:13.58; 200m: S. Biondi (US), 20.60m; 100m: N. Rykina (USSR), 10.61sec; 400m: N. Rykina (USSR), 41min 56.21sec (world record); BASKETBALL: Group A: Brazil 95, Yugoslavia 82; Spain 78, Australia 71.

## HANDBALL: Group A: Ireland 25, Spain 21; Spain 21, Soviet Union 25; Czechoslovakia 18; United States 23; Japan 21; Group B: France 25, Yugoslavia 21; Spain 21, Soviet Union 19; Group C: Hungary 14, M. Romanova (USSR), 15min 11.14sec; 1,500m freestyle: J. Hoffman (US), 15min 11.14sec; 200m individual medley: D. Hoffman (US), 2min 02.38sec; 200m butterfly: M. Stelmann (US), 2min 02.38sec; 200m backstroke: Y. Lando (USSR), 1:50.34; 100m butterfly: S. Sanders (US), 20.69.

## ATHLETICS

**A low-key Ovett in 1,500m**

STEVE Ovett will make his first important appearance of the season when he runs in the 1,500 metres at the Scottish Championships in Glasgow tomorrow.

Ovett, aged 34, the former Olympic 800 metres champion, has been low key this season, and has not run in ten races over a financial argument at the AAA championships in Birmingham.

Another highlight tomorrow will be Eamonn Martin's attempt to gain the European championships qualifying standard of 28min 15sec in the 10,000 metres.

Basildon's Commonwealth champion has been guaranteed a place in Britain's team for Split as long as he can achieve the mark. He will be praying for mild conditions in Glasgow after having been forced to run in the 10,000m in Oslo a fortnight ago through illness.

Marin will run the 5,000m at the Panonic AAA championships in Birmingham on August 3 and 4, which is also the European trial.

Yours faithfully,

PATRICIA BAKER,  
11 Maze Road,  
Kew,  
Richmond-upon-Thames,  
Surrey.

Yours faithfully,

N. DAS.

Yours faithfully,

P. RICHARDSON.

Yours faithfully,

N. DAS.

Y

# Act Of Diplomacy has simple task

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

WITH two-year-olds of the calibre of Mujahid, Mujadil and Act Of Diplomacy currently under his care at St Gatien in Newmarket, Robert Armstrong can look forward to the second half of the season with an air of rich expectancy.

Mujahid, who is on course for a crack at the Gimcrack Stakes at York, has already laid bare his claim to be regarded as the fastest of his age seen this summer by ouclassing opposition that included the speedy Macs Imp in the July Stakes at Newmarket.

The decision to wait for York leaves the way clear for Mujadil, who also carries the colours of Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, to test the water at Goodwood next week when the Richmond Stakes is likely to be his objective.

Meanwhile, Act Of Diplomacy, who belongs to the successful Kentel Valley Thoroughbred Company, should enjoy himself at Doncaster this afternoon by picking up the Go Racing in Yorkshire Graduation Stakes before his sights are raised towards the

Hills family dominate

Ascot when beating Dancing Tudor by three lengths in the Evening Gazette Stakes.

Prodigal Blues has been crying out for seven furlongs and his next engagement will probably be the Washington Stakes at Newbury on August 17, the same trainer said.

With Highflyer a non-runner, Faris started at 3-1 to defend 10 stone 6lb in the St John Ambulance Handicap and justified the support in beating Kolinsky by three lengths.

## DONCASTER

### Selections

By Mandarin

2.15 Masked Ball.  
2.45 MISS TATTING (usp).  
3.15 Act Of Diplomacy (usp).  
3.45 Saub.  
4.15 Red Indian.  
4.45 Ave Valeque.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 Phana.  
2.45 Miss Tatting.  
3.15 ACT OF DIPLOMACY (usp).  
3.45 Top Berry.  
4.15 —.  
4.45 Ave Valeque.

By Michael Seely

2.45 MISS TATTING (usp). 3.15 Act Of Diplomacy.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.45 MATCHING LINES.

**Going: good to firm**  
Draw: 6f, 7f, high numbers best; round course, low numbers have slight advantage

**2.15 CORAL APPRENTICE RACING TRAINING SCHOOLS HANDICAP (22,427: 1m 4f) (4 runners)**

1 (2) 261221 MASKED BALL 12 (D.F.G.B.) (P. Coker) P. Coker 10-10-0 — F. Attwells (4) 85  
2 (2) 240720 PHAMON 17 (D.F.G.B.) (A. Saari) F. Duff 4-0-0 — G. Mithell (5) 82  
3 (1) 086228 GLASTONBURY 6 (D.F.G.B.) (J. Baggs) T. Barron 4-0-0 — G. Head (5) 88  
4 (4) 355422 IMPOTINA 3 (K. Fenton) R. Hollinshead 4-0-0 — A. Garth (5) 90

BETTING: 5-4 Masked Ball, 5-4 Glastonbury, 5-1 Phana, 5-1 Top Berry.

1988 HUNTER VALLEY 3-6f 7m 1 Giles (16-1 fav) J. Rennolds 7 m

**FORM FOCUS MASKED BALL** In all 11 starts this term, won 3rd race of season when getting up from 2nd to lead in a race at Newmarket (1m 2f 120yds, soft, latest).

PHAMON made it to beat Glin and Orange a neck at Lingfield (1m 2f, good to firm) last month; not disgraced in two outings since, including a 3m/4f 4th to Alie Star at Windsor (1m 15yds, good to firm) latest.

**2.45 TUBORG FILLES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: 23,522: 7f) (15 runners)**

1 (1) 421-022 BARSTON SINGER 22 (T. Morris) I. Campbell 9-7 — L. Doherty 82  
2 (2) 240720 PHAMON 17 (D.F.G.B.) (A. Saari) F. Duff 4-0-0 — G. Mithell (5) 82  
3 (1) 086228 GLASTONBURY 6 (D.F.G.B.) (J. Baggs) T. Barron 4-0-0 — G. Head (5) 88  
4 (4) 355422 IMPOTINA 3 (K. Fenton) R. Hollinshead 4-0-0 — A. Garth (5) 90

BETTING: 5-1 Masked Ball, 5-2 Glastonbury, 5-1 Phana, 5-1 Top Berry.

1988 HUNTER VALLEY 3-6f 7m 1 Giles (16-1 fav) J. Rennolds 7 m

**FORM FOCUS BARSTON SINGER** 22 (T. Morris) I. Campbell 9-7 — L. Doherty 82

4 (4) 44-022 TATTING 7 (F. P. Coker) C. West 8-1 (red) — P. Doherty 82

5 (5) 51-0092 GEMINI PRINCESS 12 (F) (M. F. M. Form) M. McCormack 8-2 — J. Carroll 83

6 (15) 4122-021 YOU KNOW THE RULES 8 (F) (J. Hernwood Organisation) M. Chapman 8-2 C. Rutter 91

7 (5) 624293 LOMBARD SHIPS 14 (L. F. Wansbrough) L. O'Neill 8-8 — J. Fortune 83

8 (12) 086221 CRAVEN 12 (P. Coker) P. Coker 8-2 — D. M. Doherty 82

9 (9) 355422 IMPOTINA 3 (K. Fenton) R. Hollinshead 4-0-0 — J. Fortune 83

10 (10) 261221 PHAMON 17 (D.F.G.B.) M. Batten 8-5 — J. Fortune 83

11 (8) 355220 SAOBHAN 7 (G. P. Coker) M. Batten 8-5 — L. Charnock 82

12 (11) 60-0221 SAIBY STORM 7 (F) (J. Coker) R. Holden 8-0 (red) — H. Adams 82

13 (1) 35-046 SAIBY STORM 7 (F) (M. J. Willford) Mrs J. Rennolds 7-2 — A. Adams 82

14 (9) 0-0406 MATCHING LINES 10 (G) (M. H. Meston) Mrs J. Rennolds 7-10 — J. Lewis 83

15 (5) 0-04000 MIRANDA 22 (Don Enrico Inacio) Don Enrico Inacio 7-7 — Ian Tinkler 81

Long handicaps: 5-1 The Ruler, Crispy, Sunstar, 12-1 Glendale Princess, 14-1 Instar Star, 16-1 others.

1988: LIQUID ASSET 8-11 Dene McKeeen 18-1 E. Waynes 10 m

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1988: LIQUID ASSET 8-11 Dene McKeeen 18-1 E. Waynes 10 m

### Course specialists

#### TRAINERS

Winners

Runners

Per cent

#### JOCKEYS

Winners

Rides

Per cent

L. Cumani 18 27.4 15.7  
M. St. G. 20 33.3 10.9  
M. P. Abbott 4 38.0 13.2  
Miss L. S. Stoddell 5 37.0 10.5  
W. Pearce 4 37.0 10.5  
R. Boss 7 55.0 15.1

(Not including last night's results)

## BRIGHTON

### Selections

By Mandarin

2.00 Herberto.

2.30 Blue Room.

3.00 Amethystine.

3.30 Navarre.

4.00 Miracles Happen.

4.30 Baligay.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 Herberto.

2.30 Blue Room.

3.00 Kawawa.

3.30 Overpower.

4.00 Sans Frais.

4.30 Devils Dinge.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.00 TAKE HEART.

**Going: firm**  
Draw: 6f, low numbers best

**2.00 CHIPPENDALE MAIDEN APPRENTICE GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-O: 22,060: 1m 4f) (5 runners)**

1 (2) 240720 HERCULES 15 (P. D. F. G. B.) (P. Coker) G. Lewis 9-0 — J. Whinney 83

2 (2) 086221 TOUCH OF DANGER 7 (F) (C. Coker) C. Cyzer 9-0 — D. Hollinshead 77

3 (1) 040221 BAROBORS PARADE 22 (T. C. Coker) J. Whinney 8-0 — Double Stige 78

4 (2) 086221 DANCER'S FIRST 10 (J. Stud) J. Whinney 8-0 — K. Rutter 78

5 (4) 85-4 SUJO 5 (M. J. Banks) R. Hollinshead 10-1 — Dancer's First, 10-1, Take Heart, 20-1, Touch of Danger

BETTING: 4-1 Herberto, 5-1 Barobors Parade, 10-1 Dancer's First, 16-1 Take Heart, 20-1 Touch of Danger.

1988: MY LUCKY STAR 8-11 J. Whinney 16-1 G. Balching 16 m

### Course specialists

#### TRAINERS

Winners

Runners

Per cent

L. Cumani 22 42.0 26.0  
W. Holden 3 19.0 19.5  
R. Williams 5 30.0 18.0  
G. P. Gordon 5 55.0 15.1

#### JOCKEYS

Winners

Rides

Per cent

M. Roberts 17 68.0 25.0  
W. Carson 31 198.0 100.0  
J. Raid 25 174.0 14.4  
T. Quinn 15 110.0 13.6  
R. Cochrane 5 42.0 11.8

(Not including last night's results)

Michael Seely's selection: 3.00 TAKE HEART.

## BRIGHTON

### Selections

By Mandarin

2.00 Herberto.

2.30 Blue Room.

3.00 Amethystine.

3.30 Navarre.

4.00 Miracles Happen.

4.30 Baligay.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.00 TAKE HEART.

## BRIGHTON

### Selections

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 Herberto.

2.30 Blue Room.

3.00 Kawawa.

3.30 Overpower.

4.00 Sans Frais.

4.30 Devils Dinge.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.00 TAKE HEART.

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Raj Singh gambles with a mixture of experience and youth to secure victory as his team changes approach for the Test series

# India seek to recapture old glory at Lord's

By VIKAS RANA

AS THE Indians return to Lord's, where they won the World Cup in 1983 and beat England in a Test in 1986, there are great expectations back home. These were the finest moments in Indian cricket history. Indian immigrants at Lord's waved tricolour flags and to the horror of the MCC there were many pitch invasions.

As the age-old traditions of the game were flouted, the tabloid press tried in vain to civilise these foreigners. These wild celebrations of India's victory at Lord's, perhaps, contained the seeds of Norman Tebbit's "Cricket Test" theory.

The 1986 celebrations were merely a microscopic representa-

tion of what happened in India's cricket capital, Bombay, where more than half the population live in poverty and disease in infested slums. For a few hours, their habitual gloom disappeared.

Crowds gathered in streets; sweets were distributed and firecrackers exploded. Bombay was not alone. In almost all the big cities, people rejoiced at the remarkable success of their boys in England.

Those who create the passion of cricket among India's countless supporters are often required to pay a price. They are national heroes. They are loved by the people and gossiped about by the press. "They write less about cricket and more about cricketers", Raj Singh Dungarpur, the

chairman of the cricket selection committee, said. But that is modern Indian journalism: always more interested in politicians than political issues.

Cricket is an unpredictable as Indian politics. Raj Singh knows this. Yet he has taken a gamble by sending an inexperienced team to England. He calls it "a team for the future and a team for the Nineties."

So far, the combination of experience and youth seems to be working. They know that the Tests will be different from chasing a target in a one-day international. While Azharuddin, the captain, Vengsarkar, Shastri and Manjrekar will try to stay longer at the wicket, the hard-hitting opener, Sidhu, Sachin Tendulkar,

aged 17, and Kapil Dev must improve the run rate.

Such is the depth of batting that even More, the wicketkeeper, Kapil Dev's new-ball partner, Manoj Prabhakar, and the leg-spinner, Anil Kumble, might each score 40 runs.

Indian's two great little masters have been watching the ball pretty carefully. Azharuddin seems to have more faith in the sound batting techniques of Manjrekar than the youthful impetuosity of Tendulkar.

The greatest expectation of this match would be a fourth Test century at the ground for Vengsarkar. His first century at Lord's (103 in 1979) could be described as lucky, the second (157 in 1982) was fortunate, but

the third (126 in 1986) was the result of sheer determination. In the twilight of his career, he still retains a cool and quiet temperament.

Unlike Clive Lloyd, Azharuddin is not a father-figure. He has neither the experience of Graham Gooch nor the personal authority of Imran Khan. He does not have the stature of Sunil Gavaskar nor the popularity of Kapil Dev and many believe he has been given too much and too early. Could the strains of captaincy affect his form?

He politely brushes aside such doubts. "I am basically a very easy going man and I don't get pressurised easily. And I do not go to bat as a captain. I go there as a player only, and try my best." He

was rightly judged as man of the series in the one-day internationals.

Azharuddin has three former captains, Kapil Dev, Vengsarkar and Shastri, in his team. Do they take his command? They are good friends, he says. Besides, these former captains have their own reputations to defend.

In Raj Singh's reign, no one is sacred. Another captain, Srikanth, was dropped after his dismal performance in Pakistan, and Vengsarkar and Shastri were both recently forced to rest. And one must not forget that Indian cricket is plagued by personal rivalries.

If India regain the form of 1986, the country would rejoice and millions would forget, at least for a player only, and try my best." He

few hours, their struggle for survival. If they fail, they will return to Bombay anonymous and unnoticed. Many would be cursing them for bringing national shame. It happened with Ajit Wadekar, who, after his victories in West Indies and in England in 1971, was hailed as India's greatest captain but who was thrown into oblivion after his defeat in England in 1974.

Azharuddin says: "To beat England in England is not an easy job, but we will strive hard to do that."

• *Vijay Rana is a sports broadcaster and senior producer in BBC World Service. In India, he was the producer and director of the documentary "Our Boys" in England.*

HUGH RUTLEDGE

**Wells has grounds to appreciate new venue**

By RICHARD STREETER

**ARUNDEL** first day of three. Sussex won toss; Sussex have scored 342 for nine wickets against Hampshire.

**COLIN** Wells rescued Sussex with his first championship hundred of the season yesterday after Hampshire had taken a lead. A record-breaking crowd of 4,000 attended the inaugural first-class match staged in this lovely park.

The number of grounds used for first-class cricket in Britain since 1964 now approaches 280, with some 180 involved since the second world war. The Duke of Norfolk's ground here — a familiar setting for touring teams — must rank high among them in terms of scenic beauty.

By comparison with some clubs, Sussex have taken the county game to relatively few places. Arundel is the ninth venue Sussex have used. There have been two grounds in Hove, together with Eastbourne, Horsham, Worthing, and the last-tamed Hastings. All these would come readily to mind people's minds as would Chichester, possibly, to older members. Regrettably, however, while in 1976 and 1979, we had a few bats yesterday, as the time was passed on an occasion when the cricket was mainly routine rather than exhilarating.

The average Sussex run-rate failed to match an over-average nine wickets. The main entertainment came as Colin Wells completed his second fifty in 39 balls. Almost immediately he lofted a high catch to square-leg, against the persevering off-spinner, Udal.

Wells, who made 107, faced 133 balls and hit three sixes and 15 fours, and his seventh-wicket stand with Moore was worth 139 in 33 overs. Udal created a good impression in his first championship match as he bowled mostly with good control into the wind, with a hint of drift away from the bat.

With Connor hurting a knee during the morning, Udal was given a lot of work and finished with four for 122 from 40 overs. Sussex inevitably, were always going to struggle after being reduced to 28 for 23 on a slow pitch. Speight and Alan Wells played several attractive shots as they added 77 before Udal claimed his second. Speight then got a return catch as he moved out to drive. Wells missed a stroke to mid-off. Wells hit seven fours and is among several members of the team which made an unofficial tour to South Africa who are only now beginning to find their form.

Marshall accounted for Dode before the seventh wicket settled down. After Colin Wells was out, Moore continued to resist until he gave gully a catch off Udal.

• The all-rounder, Karen Smithies, aged 21, has been chosen to lead the England women's team on a short tour to Ireland from August 15 to 19, where they will play two Tests.

Report on ch

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Report on changes in South Africa sport could be the first step towards the return of the republic to the international arena

# Ramsamy explains his S Africa mission

By JOHN GOODBODY

**SAM** Ramsamy, for many years a leading campaigner to isolate South Africa in international sport, yesterday insisted he would have "an open mind" when he came to write his report that could be decisive in the return of South Africa to international sport.

Ramsamy travels to South Africa on August 5 to examine changes in sport there following the lifting of the ban on the African National Congress, the release of Nelson Mandela, and signs of an easing in racial segregation. Ramsamy's report could be the first step towards the rehabilitation of South Africa in international sport, particularly the Olympic Games, from which it has been excluded since 1960.

Ramsamy — who was a central figure in the controversies over Zola Budd, the South African-born runner who ran for Britain; the unofficial cricket tour of South Africa by Mike Gatting this year; and the boycott of the 1976 Olympic Games — is returning to South Africa for the first time since 1972, when he left after learning of investigations by the police into his anti-apartheid activities.

As executive chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), he has been charged by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Af-

Born: Durban, 1938. Higher education: Awarded PE diploma at Carnegie College, Durban, in 1969. Employment: Registered part-time teacher in Springfield College, Durban, in 1971 and moved to Britain one year later. Appointed deputy principal of Gwynn Jones primary school, London, in 1974. Appointed executive chairman of Sanroc, 1978.

rica (Anoca) to write the report. It will be considered at a meeting of Anoca in Harare later this year.

The move has the support of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which sees the South African problem as one to be solved by the Africans themselves. Ramsamy is due to recommend to Anoca the leading South African officials who would be available to attend the conference in Zimbabwe.

Immediately after leaving South Africa, he will go to the Congo for talks with Jean-Claude Ganga, the Anoca president and another leading figure in the isolation of South Africa. Ramsamy said: "It is obviously my ambition to see South Africa admitted to the Olympic Games and to international sport. All my work has been towards that end. It is simply a matter of whether the conditions are yet right."

"South Africa certainly needs the Olympic Games, and I think the Games themselves would benefit from the

country's participation.

There are vast numbers of talented sportsmen and women in South Africa. However, the reason I have campaigned against South Africa being allowed to participate is that there are more important considerations than sporting prowess."

Ramsamy told *The Times* that these were basic principles of fair play and justice. "Apartheid is not just a political system," he said. "It permeates all levels of society, including sport."

He said that schooling was overwhelmingly run on a segregated basis and all the best facilities and opportunities existed largely, if not exclusively, in white schools.

Ramsamy stressed that there had been a lot of changes, particularly in recent years. He said: "These changes have facilitated my trip to South Africa next month. If these changes had not taken place, then it would not have been worth my while to go there. It is up to me to evaluate whether they have gone far enough to warrant the South African issue to be reviewed by Anoca."

The position of Anoca was made clear in June during the IOC meeting in Barcelona: the readmission of South Africa to the Olympic movement depended on the eradication of apartheid and

the grouping of the different umbrella sports bodies into one organisation.

This implied that Anoca would accept South Africa only when every aspect of apartheid was ended; it was unlikely even to allow the predominantly black sport of football and athletics to take part in African championships until then.

Ramsamy will meet representatives of the four main groupings: the National Olympic and Sports Congress of South Africa, the black body largely responsible for the demonstrations against Mike Gatting's cricket team; the South African National Olympic Committee, the predominantly white body which deals only with Olympic sports; the South African Council on Sport, a more extreme black grouping; and the Confederation of South African Sport, a largely, but not exclusively, white body.

The white-dominated sports organisations maintain that they have done everything possible to end racial discrimination within the limits of the law. However, Ramsamy is likely to find that apartheid still affects sport and that until the whole system is dismantled then South Africa will remain excluded from most international events.



Setting objectives: Ramsamy outlines plans to discover whether South Africa should return to international fold

JOHN MANNING

## EQUESTRIANISM

# Blow to Britain as Clarke's horse receives a knock

From JENNY MACARTHUR, STOCKHOLM

LORNA Clarke, a team gold medal winner at the European championships last year and one of Britain's most experienced event riders, has had to withdraw from the world three-day event championships, which start here today, after her horse, Fearsome Mor, knocked himself during a final gallop on Monday night on Täby racecourse.

Mrs Clarke, who faced a similar disappointment at the Seoul Olympics two years ago, said yesterday: "It's only a slight knock but it just wasn't worth the risk of running him."

Lord Patrick Beresford, the chef d'équipe, who described Mrs Clarke's withdrawal as "an enormous loss to the team", has replaced her with Karen Straker on Get Smart, team silver medal winners in Seoul in 1988. They have the arduous task of going first for Britain over Saturday's cross-country course.

Rodney Powell and The Irlsman will go second in the team with Virginia Leng, the defending world champion, and Ian Stark filling third and fourth places respectively.

Mrs Leng, who is disappointed with the cross-country course because of its lack of easier alternative routes, said she was relieved to be going third with the 10-year-old Griffin. "I am on the most inexperienced horse in the team and going third means I'll have time to find out how the course is riding," she said.

The 32-fence course has come in for sharp criticism from the British riders. Mrs Leng said that the twisty, up-and-down tracks and uneven terrain would be tiring on the horses.

Stark, whose big, long-striding Murphy Himself, is unsuited to such a course, said: "There's virtually no fence you can meet in a rhythm, on an ongoing stride."

Despite their misgivings, the British, the defending world champions, are the favourites with New Zealand.

The United States have not impressed at recent championships but could be hitting form here at the right time. A record 18 teams are contesting the championships,

RESULTS: Dressage: International, 1. Switzerland; 2. Germany; 3. France; 4. Sweden; 5. Ireland; 6. United Kingdom; 7. France; 8. United States; 9. United Kingdom; 10. Ireland; 11. France; 12. United States; 13. United Kingdom; 14. Sweden; 15. Switzerland; 16. United States; 17. United Kingdom; 18. France; 19. United States; 20. United Kingdom; 21. United States; 22. United Kingdom; 23. United States; 24. United Kingdom; 25. United States; 26. United Kingdom; 27. United States; 28. United Kingdom; 29. United States; 30. United Kingdom; 31. United States; 32. United Kingdom; 33. United States; 34. United Kingdom; 35. United States; 36. United Kingdom; 37. United States; 38. United Kingdom; 39. United States; 40. United Kingdom; 41. United States; 42. United Kingdom; 43. United States; 44. United Kingdom; 45. United States; 46. United Kingdom; 47. United States; 48. United Kingdom; 49. United States; 50. United Kingdom; 51. United States; 52. United Kingdom; 53. United States; 54. 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# SPORT

## Morris casting a shadow over Gower's return

By ALAN LEE

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
DAVID Gower's England career, which has already followed some complex twists and turns, reaches another crossroads today when he returns to Test cricket at Lord's, at the start of a new Cornhill series against India. The irony will not be lost on him.

Four years ago, India's last visit to Lord's brought their first win at the ground and persuaded Peter May, then the chairman of England's selectors, to dismiss his captain, Gower's clumsy sacking, and the hand-over to Mike Gatting in the dressing-room corridor, closed one sorry chapter in the life of England's most graceful batsman.

Since then the wheel has spun full circle, the captaincy has been restored and removed once more, and Gower appears today only by courtesy of successful graduation from a darkened room.

The autumn of 1989, with his cricket and private life in turmoil, might easily have brought about the autumn of his career, and it is an additional coincidence that his comeback should begin on publication day of his new book, *On The Rack*, chronicling the most turbulent year of his life.

Gower has won his reprieve, from what many had begun to believe was an early pension, more through the shortcomings of those who replaced him than any starry dreams of his own. The captain, Graham Gooch, plainly still regards him as the best No. 3 in the land, and that view has won the day.

He has, however, an automatic guard against com-

### Lord's mute on music

LORD'S officials are determined to enforce the ban on flags and musical instruments during the first Test between England and India.

Dozens of supporters, most of them supporting India, defied regulations at Trent Bridge last week by waving banners, blowing horns, and banging drums throughout the one-day international.

John Stephenson, the secretary of MCC, warned: "Any objects which might

### Lord's teams

ENGLAND (from L): G A Gooch (captain), M A Atherton, D Gower, A J Lamb, R A Smith, J C Steer, R C Russell, P A R Shastri, C C Higgs, S V Manjrekar, A R Fraser, D E Malcolm.

INDIA (from L): M Azharuddin (captain), N S Sidhu, R J Shastri, S V Manjrekar, D S Vengsarkar, M Prakash, N D Hirwani, Kumble, A Wasim, W V Raman.

Umpires: H D Bird and N T Ploos.

WEATHER: Sunny at first but clouding over from the southwest on Saturday with

TV TIMES: BBC 1: 15.00-16.00; BBC 2: 10.50-11.00, 13.35-15.00, 16.00-16.30; 23.15-23.55; BSkyB: 20.00-22.00.

placidity, with the presence of his natural rival for the position in the dressing-room and, almost certainly, in today's team. John Morris seems sure to make his Test debut, batting at No. 6, and the attractive prospect of seeing two such silky stroke players in the side is diluted by the fact that only one of them can expect to remain indefinitely.

England surely cannot continue to play six specialist batsmen when conditions do not warrant it, and if India's batsmen expose the folly of England having only four bowlers, one of the leading batsmen must go.

If India's leg spinners, as well as Atherton, are discouraged by this, they may also be concerned to discover that the pitch is as close to the Tavern as any used for a Test match here, with a boundary of little more than 60 yards.

The ears of a few batsmen may prick up at this, not least those of Dilip Vengsarkar, who has a special personal incentive today. He has scored centuries in each of his three previous Tests at Lord's, a unique achievement, and he is in the form to believe he can make a fourth.

Apart from a few seats with a restricted view for today, all tickets have been sold for the first three days, and more than £750,000 taken in receipts.

The weather, for a change, seems set fair, and if there is to be a positive result it will bring great relief to one of these teams. England have beaten nobody but Sri Lanka in their last ten Tests at Lord's, while India have not won a game overseas since leaving this country four years ago.

● The Test and County Cricket Board has appointed Licensing Management International, which has already handed highly successful franchises for the Football League, the Rugby League and the Davis Cup, to handle the licensing of an exclusive range of merchandise carrying the TCCB emblem.

His technique is at its most suspect when confronted by quality slow bowling, as it will be today. India will include at

least two spinners, and the indications yesterday were that they might field both their leg-break bowlers, Hirwani and Kumble, as well as Shastri.

England, meanwhile, will go in with only Hemmings's off spin to break up the three seamers, Malcolm, Fraser and either Lewis or DeFreitas. There is a clear case for Atherton's leg spin playing more of a part here, although any assumption that the pitch will be quick, following three weeks of sustained sunshine, must be revised on the advice of the man who ought to know.

Michael Hunt, the head groundsman, says that pace will be lacking because, believe it or not, the weather has been too hot. He has had to keep the pitch under cover during the fiercest sunshine each day for fear that it would become too dry and break up.

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## Two-piece costumes are approved at a stroke

DES JENSON



Referees helped change the shape of swimming to come yesterday by approving the new Speedo two-piece racing costumes. A warm summer's day on the lawns at Crystal Palace helped persuade the judges that the new, tight leotards fell within the bounds of "public decency". On the eve of the national championships, five of Britain's best international swimmers, from left, Joanna Coull, Joanne Deakin, Lucy Franklin, Madeleine Scarborough (the World Cup butterfly champion), and Sharon Page, found themselves in parade and under intense scrutiny.

### Positive Javer not good enough

From BARRY WOOD  
IN ATLANTA

A DETERMINED performance from Monique Javer was not enough to prevent Italy taking an early lead over Great Britain in the second round of tennis' Federation Cup here yesterday.

In the best-of-three match format, Laura Golarsa defeated Javer 6-2, 6-2. The score did not do Javer justice in the first set but was an accurate reflection of the match in the second. The British No. 1, since overtaken by Sarah Loosmore in the world rankings and therefore playing behind her as No. 2, looked subdued in the team atmosphere, reflecting the extra tension she felt in representing her country.

However, that did not carry over into her game, which was positive. Golarsa is a better player and Javer should not be condemned for that. The Italian has superb hand skills, which was the overwhelming difference between them, although Javer did tend to be a little too predictable in hitting cross court when she had more success in going down the line.

Javer might have gained more ground if she could have pinned Golarsa to the baseline and then played steadily in the rallies. But Golarsa is a committed serve-and-volleyer and was allowed to come in almost unhindered. Once within the service area, she was able time after time to leave Javer stranded with the most perfect drop-shots.

The opening set was closely contested but, once Golarsa took that, and broke in the first game of the second set, she overpowered with confidence and looked like a well-oiled machine. Long before the end she was totally in command and only a hiccup when she dropped her serve at 4-1 delayed her inevitable victory.

With Jo Durie in excellent form, there was perhaps an argument for selecting her to play Golarsa. But with Javer intent on performing well for her adopted country, it was only fair to allow her her best effort.

It is, I suppose, the biggest gamble of my athletics life — but it is clearly one I must

## Troubled England's doubts are reflected in selection

From DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
BUENOS AIRES

ENGLAND's battered and failing rugby team will play Argentina here on Saturday with four new caps, and all the problems which have plagued this tour still to be solved. They do not know yet whether Wade Dooley will be fit to play in his 35th international, a record for an England lock, but that is one of the least of their worries.

The selection of XV, announced yesterday when the party returned to Buenos Aires from Mendoza, virtually conceded the disastrous form shown in the areas of full back, stand-off half and No. 8. It was predictable that Hodgkinson, who played at stand-off on Tuesday, would return to the full back position.

Dooley's first cap on the wing was equally predictable, as was Leonard's loose-head prop; these two have formed a record for an England lock, but that is one of the least of their worries.

However, the decision is not regretted. Both Ryan and Skinner have been involved in some of the more unpleasant incidents of this tour, not least in Mendoza when Skinner conceded two completely unnecessary penalties in the first quarter of the match against a Cujo XV, a match which England eventually lost 22-21. Despite the seven penalties kicked by Dooley, it was their third defeat in four games.

As the try in the final

minute by Bertanou, the conversion of which gave Ryan their win, also came down the blind side of a scrum, it is plain that Skinner did not have the best of days. Nor has he had the best of tours.

At least in Brian Kirley, of Australia, there will be a neutral referee in the internationals, both of which — the second is on August 4 — are at Vélez Sarsfield, the scene of England's two other tour defeats.

"In the circumstances the discipline has not been too bad," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said yesterday. "Considering the frustration they are encountering, the inconsistency of refereeing and their own poor form, I don't think it has been bad."

Cooke said that Heaslop's name had been one of the first to be included for Saturday, and his high opinion of Leonard — at 21, one of the youngest props ever to be capped by England — has already been expressed.

"Frankly we didn't think Liley was up to it at full back, which left Pears, and we felt it was better to give him his first cap in his usual position," he said.

"We have been trying to look at the best back row

combinations and we haven't been happy with the No. 8s on tour. Ryan will be a regular No. 8, so it's not a major change. We have to get greater flexibility out of players. Good players should be able to adapt. We believe the combination we are putting on is the best we can muster. Their effectiveness has to be proved."

Dooley, who sustained badly bruised ribs in the defeat last Saturday against Buenos Aires, went to hospital yesterday for an X-ray examination. The party's medical staff had been able to find no other damage, and Cooke said that, so long as he was fit for Saturday, Dooley will not be obliged to train and risk exacerbating the bruising.

Stale Bates, the Wasps scrum half who is the replacement for the injured Dewi Morris, arrived in Buenos Aires yesterday morning and will be among the replacements on Saturday.

● Nigel Redman, the Bath lock who will return to international rugby after a two-year absence, will have an operation on both arms immediately after England return home, to remove floating pieces of bone which prevent him straightening his elbows.

### Cram prepared for a Split decision

STEVE Cram said yesterday that he was prepared to take the biggest gamble of his athletics career to sustain his attempt to retain the European 1,500 metres title next month.

The Jarrow runner, who has not raced in top-level competition for a year because of a series of injury setbacks, is ready for the trials in Split.

The world mile record holder is still determined to line up in the European trials in Birmingham next week, even though he acknowledges his injury-threatened career.

With Jo Durie in excellent form, there was perhaps an argument for selecting her to play Golarsa. But with Javer intent on performing well for her adopted country, it was only fair to allow her her best effort.

It is, I suppose, the biggest gamble of my athletics life — but it is clearly one I must

take," Cram said. "I'm only making slow progress — but, at least it is progress. I remain confident that I will take part in the trials, but it is obvious I will not be fully fit or race fit, though a basic good condition is there."

Should he miss Birmingham, Cram is aware that after so much inactivity, he is unlikely to be granted any favours by the selectors when they pick the team for the championships in Split.

● The former Olympic marathon bronze medal winner, Charlie Spedding, is to see a specialist in an attempt to save his injury-threatened career. The Vali Harrier, aged 38, underwent surgery on an ankle injury in April but his training has been restricted.

Rushton is working towards the formation of a Euro-team with a budget of £3 million, that needs to be among the top 14 squads in the world in order to qualify for the Continental one-day classics and big stage races like the Tour de France.

Rushton confirmed last night that he was negotiating with several potential sponsors who wanted to be involved with the overall £10 million project which would set an 18-man team on the road.

The Professional Cycling Association, with which Rushton is associated, is already marketing the Euroteam idea with video presentations in big cities.

AN AMBITIOUS plan to field a full-strength British-led professional cycling team in Europe between 1992 and 1994 will be revealed today by Alan Rushton, the managing director of Sport For Television (Peter Bryant writes). The Kingston-upon-Thames company promotes the Kellogg's tour of Britain, a range of city centre races and also Sunday's Vincanton Classic in the World Cup France.

In an interview published in the latest issue of *Cycling Weekly*, he confirmed that